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13 pages of sport

Hostels to be set up in every town

## Network of homes for lone mothers

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

A NATIONAL network of special hostels to house teenage mothers, with a home in most towns, is being planned by the Government. Grandparents might also be paid to look after the illegitimate children.

Ministers believe that hostel life would give single mothers companionship and prevent them leading isolated lives in a council flat or bed-and-breakfast accommodation.

But they are aware that critics will see the idea as a return to Victorian days when "fallen women" were sent away to large safe houses, and they insist that no one would be forced into a home against her will. Rather, the aim is to allow women to use the hostels for a transition period to help them to move from a life on benefit into work, and places might be available for girls deserted by their boyfriends, the homeless, or for those who cannot live with their families.

They would have access to health visitors and would also be offered child care to allow study at a local college or training for a job.

The hostels network would be part of an action plan to deal with a growing problem that has left Britain with one of the highest proportions of unmarried teenage mothers in the world.

Whitehall's social exclusion unit is to put forward a number of ideas a report to the Prime Minister by the end of next week, and a final blueprint for change is expected before Easter.

Other elements might include cash incentives to encour-



SCHOOL CHILDREN UNUSUAL

age parents to help to rear their grandchildren. Officials have found that the children of teenage mothers brought up within the extended family are tend to be better educated and do better at school.

Ministers have looked at the whole gamut of teenage pregnancy, and other recommendations will include greater advice on contraception as well as more information for both boys and girls about commitment in personal relationships.

An early lookout system in schools would aim to give girls most vulnerable to becoming young mothers — often those struggling with their work or uninterested at school — extra attention. They might also be given special lessons by former teenage mothers to dispel any myths that a baby is a glamorous accessory or a route to greater independence.

Girls discovering that they are pregnant would be given advice on the choices they face, including adoption and termination.

One minister said last night: "We are determined to be flexible and to offer a range of help to young mothers who find themselves in many different circumstances."

A broad approach was also advocated before Christmas in a special research project *Teenage Mothers: Decisions and Outcomes* by the independent Policy Studies Institute.

That found that most teenage mothers became so by accident. Professor Isabel Allen, a joint author of the report, said: "I favour a broad approach there is no single solution. The real challenge will be to provide extra child care and for many more opportunities for study, training, and retraining for the mothers to get into jobs."

The report was prompted by Tony Blair who is alarmed by the scale of teenage pregnancy in Britain. A recent American survey showed that 87 per cent of the 41,700 babies born to 15 to 19-year-olds in Britain were outside marriage, compared with 62 per cent in the United States and just 10 per cent in Japan.

Figures published by the Government before Christmas confirmed that more than 94,000 teenage girls give birth in Britain every year, including 9,000 aged under 16.

While 31 out of 1,000 live births in Britain were to women under 20, the comparable West European figures were seven in Switzerland, nine in France, eight in Italy, and seven in The Netherlands.

Mother and child, page 2

### Boy, 2, and his father snatched

A British oil worker, Martin Westbury, and his two-year-old son were taken hostage yesterday by armed youths who commandeered the speedboat they were boarding in Nigeria. The youths are believed to have demanded money. Another Briton, Jim Simpson, was taken hostage by youths last week and has still not been freed.

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### US hint at Kosovo autonomy deal

FROM TOM WALKER IN RAMBOUILLET, FRANCE

MADELINE ALBRIGHT suggested yesterday that the ethnic Albanian delegation at the Kosovo peace talks was ready to sign the Contact Group proposal for an autonomous province within Yugoslavia.

"Based on my talks with the Albanians they recognise that the plan is a fair deal," she said after a hectic day in Paris in which international pressure mounted on Belgrade to adopt a more conciliatory negotiating line that could stave off the threat of Nato airstrikes.

A new form of wording enshrining Kosovo's place within Yugoslavia was being formulated in an attempt to mollify the Serbs, diplomats said.

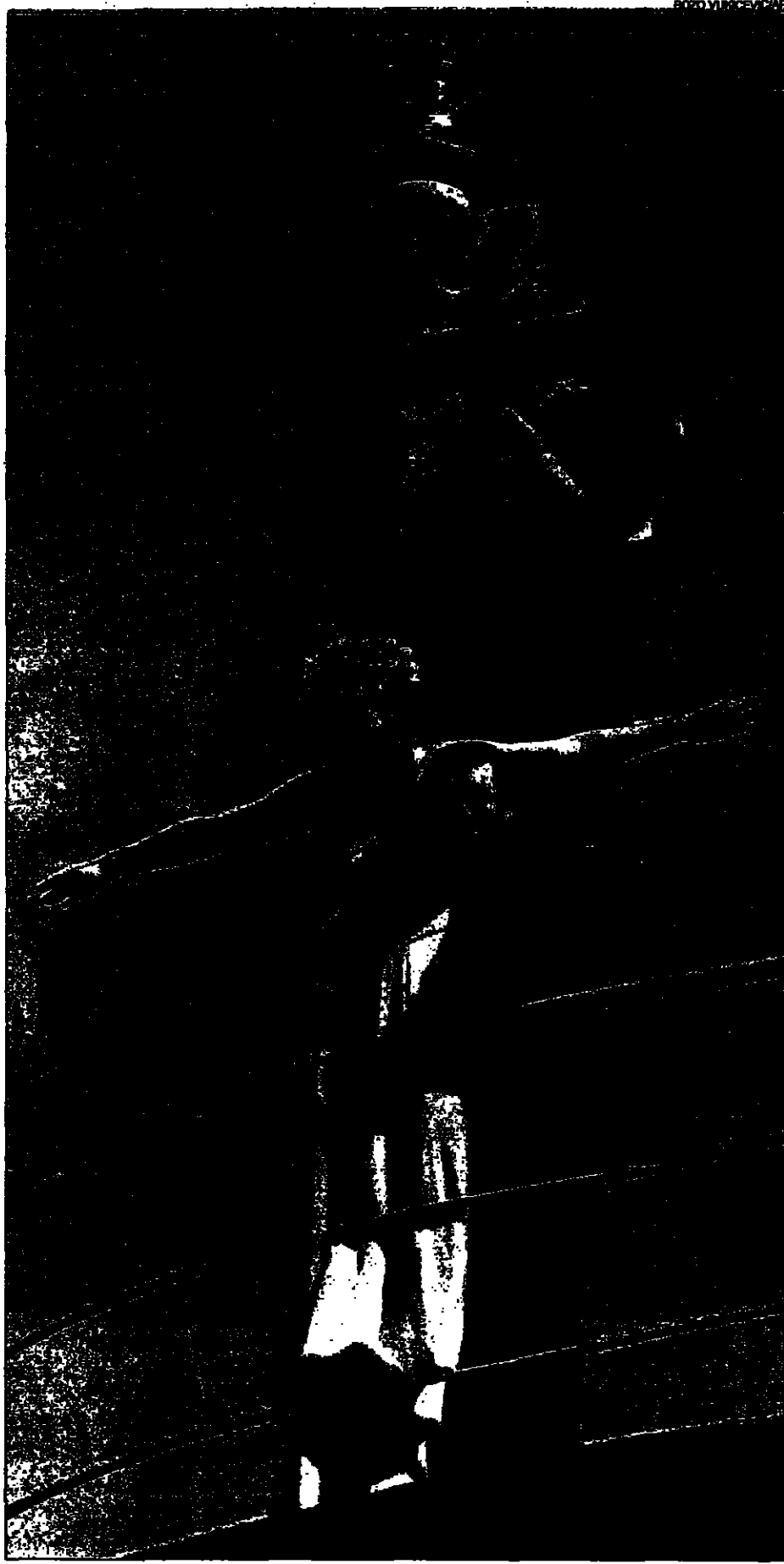
Earlier in the day European ministers agreed a provisional aid package for Kosovo worth 500 million euros (£350 million), aimed at reconstruction and refugee rehabilitation.

Contact Group ministers then swiftly agreed to allow the peace talks to continue for a further week, with the deadline for a final deal now set for next Saturday.

Mrs Albright, in combative mood, began her day by calling both the Serb and Albanian delegations together at the Chateau Rambouillet — their first direct meeting in a week. She told President Milutinovic of Serbia that his country was again at the brink of disaster, but she also reassured the Serbs that Kosovo's independence was not under discussion.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said that Russia appeared to join a Nato-led force, probably to be called KFOR, as long as both Serbs and Albanians signed the peace plan.

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Jacqueline O'Rourke, 28, an Army staff sergeant, and John Walker, 27, a petty officer in the Royal Navy, were among scores of couples to marry on St Valentine's Day yesterday.

Their wedding was on the Royal Fleet Auxiliary support ship *Fort Grange*, moored off the Croatian port of Split. The vessel serves peacekeeping

### Valentine's Day brides

forces in Bosnia, and as no local leave is allowed, the couple will spend their honeymoon on a training course on the island of Brac where they will be

able to practise their hobby of scuba-diving.

In Britain, register offices in several towns opened for the first time on a Sunday to mark St Valentine's Day. There were 20 weddings at Wandsworth in South London and 16 in Southampton. The chapel at Gretna Green also opened for business.

### Village shocked by deaths

By ADRIAN LEE

A RETIRED teacher and her husband were found dead at their Oxfordshire village home yesterday, shortly before they were due to attend their weekly church service.

Joan Lawrie was found in her bedroom, while her husband Martin's body was on the patio below. Both had suffered massive head injuries.

The couple are believed to have died on Saturday, but the alarm was not raised until 11am yesterday when the Lawries' next-door neighbour saw a body on the patio and

thought Mr Lawrie had collapsed in his back garden. But when ambulancemen arrived, they found that both Mr Lawrie and his wife were dead. Mrs Lawrie not only had serious head injuries, but was believed to have been inflicted with a hammer, but her neck had also been slashed.

The motive for the deaths was not clear last night, but a police source said: "We have not launched a murder inquiry." It was believed that there may have been some sort of domestic dispute and that Mr Lawrie may have fallen from an upstairs window.

The Lawries, both in their seventies, had been married for more than forty years and had a daughter and a son.

They were respected members of Freeland Methodist Church, which they attended every week, and yesterday afternoon the Rev Stainer Smith said prayers for the couple. He told a congregation of about 20 that the "shattering news" had devastated the village.

"Martin and Joan were such lovely, wonderful people, who gave their life to God and we gather here bemused, perplexed and bereaved."

### Off-piste skiing banned in avalanche alert

By ADAM SAGE

FRENCH authorities are threatening off-piste skiers in the Alps with criminal proceedings as part of a safety clampdown in the busiest week of the year.

Skiers, walkers and climbers found off-piste in the Chamonix valley will be arrested when they return to their hotels and fined as part of the crackdown, which comes after a week in which 19 people died in the region.

The avalanche danger is rated at maximum after the heaviest snowfalls

for 50 years, and the French authorities have issued a special warning to the 50,000 Britons expected to head for the Alpine resorts for the half-term holiday. Sergeant-Major Gilles Trousselier of the Chamonix gendarmerie said: "We advise everyone, but notably the British, to be especially vigilant because there are many accidents that can be avoided."

"The British may not be more reckless than anyone else, but they are less well informed about the weather conditions and so they are more dangerous. They must find out what the conditions

are like before going off on their snowboards or up the mountains."

At least six Britons have died in the French Alps over the past two weeks, including Catherine Ovington, 26, from Cheltenham, who was caught in an avalanche on Friday after staging an off-piste snowboarding race above Val d'Isere. She was hit by a 150ft wall of snow travelling at about 80 mph.

Ms Ovington's death was one of a series of incidents which prompted the bylaw banning off-piste skiing, climbing and walking in most of Haute-Savoie county, apart from some slopes

above the resort of Chamonix. Offenders caught off-piste in the next three days face a fine of up to £100.

The Haute-Savoie Prefecture said that it had ordered rescue teams, who patrol the mountains by helicopter, to notify police and the gendarmerie of off-piste skiers. They would be arrested when they returned to their hotels.

However, the move brought immediate protests in Chamonix, where ski lift operators threatened to strike in protest while hotels, restaurants and other businesses expressed concern about the loss of custom.

### Ulster peace 'in jeopardy' after Ahern's IRA remarks

By AUDREY MAGEE AND JILL SHERMAN

BERTIE AHERN, the Irish Prime Minister, was last night accused of jeopardising the Northern Ireland peace process after suggesting that Sinn Fein be barred from sitting in Ulster's new government until the IRA began to decommission its weapons.

On the eve of today's debate on Northern Ireland's new assembly, Mr Ahern publicly sided with Unionists and insisted that the IRA hand over weapons before Sinn Fein is allowed to sit on the executive.

But Sinn Fein was so angered by the comments that the Irish Government was forced to back down and say that Mr Ahern's remarks had been misinterpreted.

All sides voiced fears that the comments, designed to give impetus to today's discussions, could backfire and destabilise the peace process. The Northern Ireland Office and Downing Street, while privately encouraged by the remarks, kept a low profile, refusing to get involved in such a sensitive issue.

Mr Ahern faced criticism in Dublin, and is expected to face intense pressure in the Irish Parliament to explain himself. John Bruton, Fine Gael leader and a former prime minister, said: "The Taoiseach has said two completely different things on the most sensitive political issue currently facing this country."

David Byrne of the Progressive Unionist Party said: "I hope he knows what he's doing. If he's successful in helping to break the impasse then that would be great."

"But the danger is what if it doesn't succeed and we have a retreat from the agreement by

Sinn Fein and the Provisional IRA? That would be as bad as having a retreat from the agreement by Unionists."

Mitchell McLaughlin of Sinn Fein said the comments were "a very, very serious development indeed".

Sinn Fein was particularly furious because it has always regarded Mr Ahern as the leader of Irish nationalism and an ally.

But Mr Ahern, having failed to secure written or verbal guarantees from Sinn Fein on a start date for decommissioning, decided to take a tougher line publicly than previously. His comments were the clearest indication yet that the Irish Government is losing patience with the Provisionals.

In an interview with *The Sunday Times* he made clear that it was impossible for Gerry Adams and his colleagues to take up ministerial seats in the new administration unless guns and explosives were handed over.

"Our view is that decommissioning in one form or another has to happen. It is not compatible with being a part of a government, and part of an executive, if there is not at least a commencement to decommissioning," he said.

Sinn Fein leaders held frantic telephone calls with Dublin while Mr Ahern went to Sunday Mass, leaving his officials to defend him. But Mr Ahern sought to placate Sinn Fein last night and told RTE news that his position on decommissioning had not changed.

He said: "I never used the word 'barred'. I have had so many meetings with Sinn Fein that they know precisely what the Government's position is."

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# Train delays blamed on demand

Arthur Leathley says rail managers are braced to clash with John Prescott next week over punctuality

RAIL passengers face the prospect of longer delays or fewer trains as the railway industry wrestles with a growing congestion crisis.

Senior rail managers will warn John Prescott next week that his demands for immediate improvements in punctuality are unrealistic, given his calls for train firms to carry record numbers of passengers.

The rail industry is braced for a stormy public meeting with Mr Prescott on February 25, at which he will lambast some firms for running too many late trains. But senior managers will use the meeting

to point out additional problems caused by the Transport Secretary's demand for a 15 per cent increase in passenger miles by 2002. They say that each one per cent increase in passenger numbers leads to a 2.5 per cent increase in delays because of the higher volume of trains.

Train companies will argue that a reduction in frequency is a key short-term solution to the punctuality problems ahead of a huge investment programme by Railtrack. Pas-

senger groups are already resigned to a reduction in services by some companies with punctuality and cancellation problems.

Operators will tell Mr Prescott that he should be wary of making unrealistic demands for punctuality improvements until rail bottlenecks are eased over the next five years. Although plans will be announced next week to clear up 50 bottlenecks, several of Britain's busiest commuter companies are drawing up proposals to remove trains

from service to ease congestion. Most of the worst congestion blackspots are around London, in Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, Glasgow, Bristol and on the busy East Coast and West Coast main-line routes.

Rail executives expect to hit a post-war record for passenger journeys in the next two years, although the network is only half the size it was at the previous peak in 1947.

"It is time to be realistic about

what can be achieved," said one director of a London commuter service. "We have increased the numbers of passengers, and trains, but we get dobered every time there are more delays. The only solution is to cut the number of trains." However, train firms' franchise agreements forbid any reduction below British Rail levels.

Although Railtrack has a £17 billion investment programme to improve the network, including some 80 congestion blackspots, many of

the most serious changes will not be completed until 2004.

Gerald Corbett, Railtrack chief executive, said that the company was drawing up an urgent hit-list of the worst trouble-spots to reduce delays. Almost 2 million minutes delay is caused by problems at 84 heavily used blackspots. "We are getting much better at identifying the problem areas. The problem is that the industry didn't plan as well as we could have done for growth." Railtrack will fall slightly below

its target of reducing its own delays by 7.5 per cent this year, partly because of increased delays on the heavily congested London lines and poor maintenance work on the Great Western line between London and South Wales. However, it is expected to escape a fine from the rail regulator, although the sanction could be used if he is not satisfied with Railtrack's efforts.

Children Railways, which runs services from Birmingham to London, will be the first to reduce train frequencies — by 10 per cent — despite a 15 per cent increase in passenger demand.

## Clarke warns Tories not to drift further to the Right

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke warned the Tories yesterday not to drift further to the Right in an attempt to revive the party's fortunes. He urged William Hague to bring forward new policies and to start selling the party more positively.

The former Tory Chancellor's comments came as Tony Blair suggested that Mr Clarke should become leader of the Conservative Party and overturn its Eurosceptic policy.

Mr Clarke welcomed Mr Hague's visit to the US to meet George Bush Jr, the Republican governor of Texas, who swept to power on "compassionate conservatism".

Asked about the Tories' perceived drift to the right since Mr Hague took over from John Major as party leader, Mr Clarke said: "I'm very glad that William Hague has made his visit to Texas to discover that this is not the approach

that George Bush Junior, the most successful centre-right politician, has adopted."

Mr Clarke told BBC Radio 5 Live that those in the party who were "tempted to believe that following Newt Gingrich and having clear blue water between ourselves and new Labour" should take note. He also said that people wanted "strong Government", but not along Blairite lines.

In an interview with the *Sunday Telegraph*, Mr Blair said that he believed Mr Hague would be removed as Tory leader because he had failed to resolve the party's internal split over the single currency.

When asked whether he hoped that Mr Clarke would defect to the Labour party, Mr Blair said: "It's in the interests of the country that people like Ken Clarke take back the Conservative party. It's not in the interests of the country that the Conservatives are moving further and further to the Right."

Mr Clarke, who has never ruled out leading the Tories, said that 1999 was the year in which his party had to make comebacks in the European and local government elections. "Discover its purpose and start selling itself more effectively. But he said that the "permanent hectic reporting of political events" made the Conservatives' task even more difficult.

"If the Opposition don't instantly revive they then get into extremely bad publicity for not doing so," he said.



Clarke said Hague must sell the Tories positively



Sami Khatun and her son Ashaan: she wanted "to be loved by somebody"

## When mother is little more than a child

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

COMING to terms with motherhood before they have had the opportunity to develop their own adult identity poses acute problems for many teenage mothers.

When she had her first child at the age of 16, Sami Khatun had little self-confidence and virtually no knowledge about childcare.

She became pregnant, she said, because she wanted "to be loved by somebody".

"I wanted to give my love to somebody, someone that nobody could take from me," she added.

She got married after her father had died and she had been living in care for a year. Soon after her marriage she became pregnant, hoping that a child would help cement her relationship with her husband. It did not. He left a week after her son, Robbie, was born.

"I did not know how to be a mother — what to do if my child had nappy rash or if he was teething, sometimes he just seemed to be crying," she said.

Ms Khatun, now 22, lived with her mother immediately after Robbie was born, but moved into her own flat by the time she was 17. "I don't think my mum really understood — she wanted me to do everything her way," she said.

Three years ago, Ms Khatun had a second son, Ashaan. She has been helped since then by a pioneering voluntary organisation, Newpin, which runs 16 day centres for parents throughout the country.

Ministers have been impressed by Newpin's approach. Run mostly by moth-

ers who have themselves had to cope with stressful parenting experiences, Newpin aims to break cycles of destructive family behaviour. It offers training in parenting skills, family play programmes and support and advice for parents in a friendly and non-judgmental atmosphere.

Ms Khatun attends the Newpin centre in Hoxton, north London, most days of the week, where she meets other mothers and receives training and support. It has helped restore her self-esteem and given her ambitions for the future.

"I was becoming really isolated before I came here. I went to a playgroup after I had my first son, but they took one look at me and asked me if I was his sister. I did not feel welcome."

"Now, at Newpin, I am about to do a personal development course, learning about building up my confidence — Ashaan's father used to put me down all the time. After that I want to do a health and social studies course and then I want to do voluntary work with teenagers," she said.

She is unenthusiastic about some of the Government's proposed plans for teenage mothers, and feels there would be significant stigma attached to a stay in a special hostel for mother and baby unit for teenagers.

"In a mother and baby unit you would feel you were being judged and looked down upon. You would have to do everything by their rules and they could treat you like a child," she said.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Lockerbie extradition anticipated

Britain said at the weekend that attempts to extradite the two Lockerbie suspects to stand trial in The Netherlands "could be approaching the end game".

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, voiced strong hopes that a breakthrough was imminent, following reports by Saudi Arabian and South African mediators that Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, had agreed that the two suspects, Abdel Baset Ali al-Meghrihi and Lamine Khalifa Fhimah, could serve their sentences in Scotland if convicted.

## Edward 'title'

A report that Prince Edward will become Duke of Windsor upon his marriage to Sophie Rhys Jones in June was dismissed as "wild speculation" by Buckingham Palace. The Prince, who produced a television documentary on the late Duke of Windsor in 1996 entitled *Edward, on Edward*, said he was fascinated by the life of his great-uncle Edward VIII, who took the title after abdicating in 1936.

## Plea to Princess

The Princess Royal was yesterday urged not to resign from the International Olympic Committee by the other British member of the body, Craig Reedie, who is also chairman of the British Olympic Association, said the Princess could have a "very valuable role" in the restructuring of the organisation, which has been hit by bribery scandal. There have been hints that the Princess is reviewing her IOC membership.

## Tank death

Army experts are examining a tank which was being driven by military enthusiasts when it rolled over, killing a woman and injuring her husband and two other men. The 17-tonne armoured vehicle was negotiating a sharp bend on a moorland road near Buxton, Derbyshire, on Saturday, when it rolled 20ft down a steep bank into a field. The woman, who was in her 20s and came from Milton Keynes, died instantly.

## No consultants

Nearly 10 per cent of doctors who have been studying to become specialists have been unable to take their final exams because no consultants are available to test them. Nearly 100 candidates who had been studying for more than five years to become members of the Royal College of Physicians were expecting to take their finals last month. Instead they will now have to wait until May.

## Dirty dozen?

Officials of Rotherham's Rosehill Press League are investigating a complaint that a pub team, Dene Brook, played with 12 men when it won only its second match of the season. League secretary Don Matthews said: "It's amazing really that they seem to have played the whole match with an extra man on the pitch. What makes it even more bizarre is that the referee noticed nothing wrong."

## Row over marriage tax Ministers accused in food row

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservatives last night hit out at reported government plans to abolish the married couples' tax allowance, claiming it should be strengthening marriage.

It will be followed up today by a campaign suggesting that Labour has introduced £40 billion of tax rises "by stealth". The Treasury refused

to comment on reports that the Chancellor was to announce the abolition of the tax allowance in his March Budget. The move would, however, be consistent with the Government's steps so far to reduce the value of the allowance, which will fall again in April.

Francis Maude, the shadow chancellor, said that the abolition of the married couples' allowance would send the wrong signals to the country. "The married couples' allow-

ance is virtually the last recognition in the tax and benefits system of the special status of marriage and the importance of it," he said.

As part of the new campaign, Mr Maude will list backdoor taxes which he claims will raise the tax burden by £40 billion by the end of the next Parliament, including the phasing out of MARS, cutting pension fund tax relief by £5 billion and raising petrol duties.

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE Government was yesterday accused of misleading consumers by claiming that only four types of genetically modified foods are on sale to the public in Britain. Another 13 enzymes have been licensed, says the pressure group GeneWatch, which obtained its information from the food manufacturing industry.

The genetically modified rennet used to make vegetarian cheese is now also used in the production of much of the British hard cheese in shops, but the Government has insisted that only four types of

genetically modified foods are on the market in Britain.

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, in an MPs' briefing on February 10, said: "There are four GM products on sale in the UK: tomato paste, vegetarian cheese, soya and maize", but GeneWatch has obtained a list of another 13 enzymes made by genetically modified micro-organisms for use in food processing. The list was provided by the Association of Manufacturers of Fermentation Enzyme Products.

Like the rennet substitute which was created for vegetarian cheese, the other enzymes are used to process food but will

have disappeared by the time it is eaten. Since ministers have included vegetarian cheese when informing consumers which genetically modified products are on sale, GeneWatch believes they should have disclosed the missing 13.

Ministers have been accused of playing down the importance of the rennet substitute, called chymosin, by describing it as an ingredient of "vegetarian cheese".

Sue Mayer, director of GeneWatch, said: "It's strange that the Government is saying 'vegetarian cheese' when other cheese is made the same way. We are concerned that the full facts should be there for people."

## Lib-Dem contender would negotiate with Tories

David Rendel might take party on new path, writes Mark Inglefield

ONE of the possible contenders to take over from Paddy Ashdown has committed what these days is a heresy among Liberal Democrats: David Rendel has declared that if no party won an overall majority in the Commons he would be ready to do a deal with the Conservatives.

"If there was no majority I think we would certainly need to consider negotiating possibly with both parties," he says. So if he became Liberal Democrat leader, would he be prepared to abandon Mr Ashdown's and Tony Blair's dream of a centre-left alliance? "It would be hopeless to say 'we would inevitably negotiate only with

Labour': it entirely depends on the parliamentary arithmetic."

The candour is refreshing, even if it goes against what Mr Ashdown has been saying since Mr Blair became Labour leader in 1994. But it's probably a smart move. If Mr Rendel has a problem it is that few people know who he is.

This may change. One of his supporters suggested last week that the other hopefuls would drop out "quite soon" and it would become a "two-horse race between Charles Kennedy

and David. If he raises his profile it could be a close-run thing."

If he enters the contest — and he has yet to decide — Mr Rendel will have his work out out beating Mr Kennedy, the party's ubiquitous media darling. But Mr Rendel, 49, is relaxed about this. "I don't set out to wow the masses," he says. "But I think it would be a pity if the leadership is determined over who appears best on *Have I Got News For You*."

What's clear is that those who've appeared in the past most on televi-

sion will in effect start at an advantage," he says. "But by the time the election takes place there will be a lot of people among the potential candidates who will be vastly better known than they are now."

He very much hopes, he says, that the leadership contest, which will take place when Mr Ashdown stands down in June, does not turn into an all-mighty scrap.

Mr Rendel entered the Commons in 1992, with a huge majority in the Newbury by-election that followed

the death of the sitting Tory MP; before that he worked as a middle manager for various big companies. His wife is a GP in his constituency.

Mr Rendel is an Old Etonian and a former Oxford rowing bluest. Could his background count against him? "It definitely doesn't seem to have worked against Old Etonians in the past," he observes. "Two of our last four leaders have been old Etonians — Jeremy Thorpe and Jo Grimond."

Indeed, it was his comfortable background that led him towards a career in politics. "I always felt that I had a duty in a way to give back something of what I've been given."



Rendel: Old Etonian

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# For you, the war should be over

German minister and British historians clash over national myths, reports Tony Paterson

BRITISH historians defended the nation's feelings over the Second World War yesterday, after a leading German politician complained that the language of the 1940s was still being used to deny his country. Michael Naumann, Culture Minister in the Social Democrat-led Government of the Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, accuses the British press of an "almost grotesque" portrait of Germany as a nation in which a new fascist government might come to power and march all over Europe again. Speaking to *The Times* yesterday, he added: "I totally agree that without England's finest hour, I probably wouldn't be talking to you. The question remains whether the picture of Germany should remain for ever enshrouded and embalmed in the myths and phrases of World War Two."

"Think of poor old Franz Beckenbauer, one of the most elegant players in the game [of football] and the only metaphor you had available for him was to call him a panzer."

He also claimed the British had wrongly elevated Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, the Desert Fox, into a superhero. Herr Naumann, 55, had said: "There is only one nation in the world that has decided to make the Second World War a sort of spiritual core of its national self, understanding and pride."

However, Alan Clark, the military historian and Conservative MP whose works include *Barbarossa* — *Soviet German Conflict*, said: "The Germans would probably have made it the centre of their spiritual core if they had been victorious."

Peter Clarke, Professor of Modern British History at Cambridge, and author of *Hope and Glory: Britain 1900-1990*, said: "I think all nations have some part of their history which becomes a crucial part of their national myth, and hence of their sense of identity. For the French, the

French Revolution is central. It may well be true that the Second World War, which was a pivotal moment for Britain, does loom bright and large. I don't think it's anything deplorable as long as it is not a purely nostalgic, back-looking creation."

John Keegan, former senior lecturer in war studies at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst, whose books include *A History of Warfare* and *The Second World War*, said: "We are obsessed with the war. On the other hand, we have a right to be obsessed because, although we were lucky to be an island, we were the only people who did the right thing in 1940. The whole of Europe, with a few honourable exceptions, collaborated



and was awarded the Croix de Guerre, said: "We probably do go on thinking of them as Jerries. In a way it was our high spot."

"Standing alone against the Nazis, we were in an incredible situation. I can quite understand how the Germans are a country that wishes to forget the last war more than anybody else," Herr Naumann

replied. "The picture of this nation is almost grotesquely defined. Particularly during the Thatcher years, the British press played on lingering fears that a new fascist government might come to power and march all over Europe again. This totally underestimates the trauma of the Third Reich," he said.

Reflecting the views of Chancellor Schröder, Herr Naumann said that he was particularly irritated by recent attacks in Britain's tabloid press on Germany's left-wing finance minister, Oskar Lafontaine. In one front-page article in *The Sun*, Herr Lafontaine was described as a "Gauleiter" and "the most dangerous man in Europe" after he suggested that tax rates throughout the European Community should be harmonised.

"Running around calling people in government Gauleiter — when they were only two years old when the war ended — is extremely offensive. I say 'Stop, don't do this, it only alienates our nations,'" he said.

Herr Naumann, who has lived in Britain, said that it was the British press and not the public or Government that had failed to come to terms with World War Two. "Fleet Street's view has very little to do with the overall mood of the nation. I simply do not believe in the automatic identity of a headline maker with the national psyche," he said.

Herr Naumann said that Germany had no difficulty coming to terms with the legacy of the Second World War and had been successful in safeguarding democracy. "The German nation has done a good job in suppressing a resurgence of Nazism in political life. However, that does not mean that Nazis do not exist."

Authorities in the eastern German city of Guben yesterday staged an anti-racist protest after a 28-year-old Algerian asylum seeker was chased to his death by five neo-Nazi youths. The man bled to death after slashing open a leg on a glass door in a block of flats while trying to flee his tormentors early on Saturday. Five youths aged between 17 and 18 were still in police custody yesterday.



Domachevo's war dead are remembered, as this slogan "Fascist fiends executed the best people in our town" shows

## War-crimes jurors know trip to Belarus is no holiday

Alan Hamilton on an Old Bailey trial that has moved to Eastern Europe

FOR the first time in British legal history, a jury hearing a criminal case left the country yesterday to hear and see first-hand evidence abroad.

The eight men and four women, accompanied by Mr Justice Potts, prosecution and defence legal teams and officials from Court 12 at the Old Bailey, boarded a British Airways scheduled flight to Warsaw on the first stage of a journey to the former Soviet Republic of Belarus.

Only the defendant was missing. Anthony Sawoniuk, 77, a retired British Rail ticket inspector from South London who faces four specimen charges of murder, was not required to return to his native town of Domachevo, close to the Polish border, where the Crown alleges he participated in the extermination of Jewish men and women during the German occupation of Western Russia in 1942.

Juries in normal criminal cases are carefully guarded to ensure they do not talk about the case while it is in progress. Taking the 12 abroad has involved a major undertaking to preserve their *cordon sanitaire*. The jurors assembled at

a London hotel on Saturday night before being taken by coach to Heathrow yesterday morning to fly to the Polish capital.

They sat together in business class, interspersed with the ushers and court officials looking after them. Mr Justice Potts sat at a window seat for the 2½-hour journey.

When the aircraft landed at Warsaw the jurors were kept in their seats while other passengers disembarked and went through passport control. Only after the other travellers, including a group of journalists and cameramen, had cleared the terminal building were the jury escorted off the aircraft. They were taken to a hotel in central Warsaw where an entire floor had been reserved. Polish police had offered to guard the floor but court officials said this would not be necessary.

Today they board a coach for a three-hour journey through Eastern Poland to cross into Belarus at the frontier town of Brest. There they will spend another night in a hotel before being taken tomorrow morning to Domachevo. Judge and jury will

spend several hours in the town, being shown a number of relevant sites. While in Belarus they will act as a fully constituted court just as though they were sitting at the Old Bailey, although with winter temperatures on the steppes dropping to minus 25C, they will be aware of the differences.

When the jury was empanelled last Monday, the judge told them that their visit would be no holiday and that they must take their warmest clothing. He also told them that if they or their families

had suffered as a result of Germany's actions against Jews or other races or religions, it would be better if they did not serve on the jury.

The case has been brought under the 1991 War Crimes Act, a rare piece of retrospective legislation. The visit to Belarus is at the request of the defence team, led by William Clegg, QC, and is unprecedented.

Only once has there been anything remotely similar. Seven years ago a Scottish Civil Court sat in Lithuania to hear evidence against a former Lithuanian police commander who had been accused in a television documentary of murdering Jews in occupied Eastern Europe. Antonia Ceevas, then 83, a retired mining engineer from Edinburgh, was the first person to defend himself against war-crime allegations in a British court. The Crown abandoned plans for a criminal prosecution after Lord Rodger Earlsferry, the Lord Advocate, decided there was insufficient evidence on which to proceed, despite an exhaustive investigation which cost nearly £4 million.



Sawoniuk: accused of four murders in 1942



Beckenbauer the "panzer" and "over-rated" Rommel



## Website offers advice on sex to youngsters

By ELIZABETH JUDGE

A WEBSITE offering young people advice about contraception, sexually transmitted diseases and relationships has been opened by the Health Education Authority.

The LoveLife site, opened on Valentine's Day, is intended for 16-24 year olds. Gail Porter, the television presenter, and two "agony aunts" columnists answered questions from young people on-line yesterday afternoon.

The site aims to offer young people straightforward, non-sensational advice. It addresses topics such as emergency contraception, abortion and deciding when to have sex for the first time. It gives the location of sexual health clinics and links up with other related sites. There is a series of "true and false" questions designed to dispel common myths.

Rodney Amis, the Health

Education Authority's project manager, said: "LoveLife is designed to be fast, simple and accessible. We'd like young people to be able to dip in and out quickly if they want to, so it's not bogged down with complex graphics that take ages to download."

The Family Planning Association said the site was a good way of getting information across to young men. "Lots of information about sex is targeted at girls and not enough at boys. The Internet is used by both sexes and it seems to be a medium that young people trust," a spokesman said.

"Britain has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Europe and it is essential that children have access to information. It is a fantastic idea."

The website address is [www.lovelife.hca.org.uk](http://www.lovelife.hca.org.uk)

## Queen's horses sedated before royal parades

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

SOME of the Queen's younger, friskier horses receive mild sedatives before royal parades to calm them, Buckingham Palace admitted yesterday.

Amid criticism by animal welfare groups, the palace disclosed that the horses' feed is laced if they appear nervous before their introduction to ceremonial parades like the state opening of Parliament and Trooping the Colour.

Buckingham Palace said that the horses, used to draw carriages carrying members of the Royal Family, were only given sedatives if they were unusually skittish.

The Queen, who was startled when a trooper from the Household Cavalry taking part in the royal procession to honour the visit of President Herzog of Germany last December was thrown from his restless horse, Reveley, is aware of the practice.

But allegations by a former livery groom of widespread

doping at the Royal Mews before major set-pieces were firmly denied.

Tim Cumiffe, 27, a former Household Cavalry trooper who served as a groom at the Royal Mews stables for nearly a year, claimed that the drugs were nicknamed "paste" because they leave the horses "pasted or wiped out".

He said: "Wonderful, lively

horses were being turned into zombies. One minute they were frisky and bright-eyed and excited at performing their duties — the next their heads would fall, their eyes glaze over and they would be sweating as if they had just run in the Grand National."

Animal welfare groups have called for an inquiry by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons after an investigation by the *Sunday People*.

Jonathan Owen, a spokesman for the World Society for the Protection of Animals, said: "I am astounded. You shouldn't use these horses if you can't train them properly. Horses can be trained humanely. Saying the animals are young and frisky is no excuse."

Reaveley, an 11-year-old gelding, fell on top of his rider, Lance-Corporal Paul Salmon, in Windsor. It is understood the horse had not been sedated before the ceremony.



Lance-Corporal Salmon and the frisky Reaveley

## University student killed by meningitis

By NICK NUTTALL

STUDENTS at Oxford Brookes University have been issued antibiotics, medical advice and a helpline number after a 19-year-old died from meningitis at the weekend.

Adam Fryer, a first-year engineering student, was rushed to hospital on Saturday afternoon after dialling 999 but died hours later.

Professor Graham Upton, the university's vice-chancellor, said: "Our thoughts are with the family and friends of this student and our deepest sympathy goes to them."

Letters have been sent to all 550 students at Morrell Hall, outlining all the symptoms of the disease and giving details of an emergency helpline number. Brookes University said yesterday that officials from the Oxfordshire Health Authority were treating the death as an isolated case.

## Celebrity chefs take cookery to the classroom

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOLCHILDREN will be taught to make "baked bean volcano" by celebrity chefs this week as part of a government plan to show the children that there is more fun to cooking than processed microwaved food. The children will learn "cooking skills" and to help parents at home to prepare a healthy balanced meal.

Anthony Worrall Thompson, Roz Denny, and other television chefs will be taking their skills into 36 schools during the half-term holiday to teach children how to prepare celery, prawn and apple salad, and fruit pavlova for healthy suppers at home. Other recipes include "dracula beetroot" with sultana savoury muffins, pineapple salsa, vegetable tortilla with guacamole guage and keema lamb stuffed naan bread.

The "Cooking for Kids" initiative, which is to be launched today by Prime Minister and Tessa Jowell, the health minister, is a pilot scheme which will be extended to 100 schools at Easter and during the summer holidays.

Children will also get the opportunity to prepare food on board the touring Royal Society of Arts Focus on Food Cooking Bus which has been fitted with a fully equipped kitchen. The bus will tour London, Manchester and Birmingham.

Up to 3,000 children will be taking part in the £100,000 voluntary scheme, with some primary school children attending secondary school classes and teachers helping out.

Waitrose, the supermarket chain, has offered to supply all the ingredients free and the chefs have all agreed to work for a minimum fee.

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# Parliament to fight its corner in 'sleaze' libel case



Hamilton: denies that any conflict arises

THE Attorney-General has ordered that Parliament should be represented in the Court of Appeal when Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, attempts to end the libel proceedings against him by Neil Hamilton, the former Conservative MP for Tatton.

The highly unusual move has been made because the case raises an unprecedented conflict between Parliament and the courts. Ross Cranston, the Solicitor-General, will appear for Parliament.

Mr Hamilton sued after Mr Al Fayed alleged on Channel 4's *A Question of Sleaze* in 1997 that Mr Hamilton had accepted free shopping, gift

A rare clash with the courts is in prospect, writes Frances Gibb

vouchers, cash and a holiday at the Paris Ritz from him. Mr Al Fayed took the case to the appeal court because the High Court last year rejected his argument that a verdict on the issues had already been given by Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, and that it was not open to the courts to question the judgment of Parliament.

Sir Gordon's report that the "cash for questions" affair involved a breach of the rules of the House of Commons was endorsed by Parliament in 1997. Mr Al Fayed argues

that for the courts to question it would be a breach of Article 9 of the 1689 Bill of Rights, which provides: "The freedom of speech and debates or proceedings in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Parliament." In effect, Mr Al Fayed's lawyers argue, Mr Hamilton is seeking to impugn Parliament's supremacy.

Mr Hamilton, who denies impropriety, argues that the Downey inquiry did not reach a definitive conclusion about his involvement; nor was it in any sense a judicial forum,

applying the rules of due process that would be applied in a court. He had no right to cross-examine witnesses and no control over who was called as a witness, and was not allowed to be represented by counsel. There was no discovery process or process for the disclosure of documents.

Mr Hamilton said that he had no option but to pursue his libel action if he was to clear his name. "Mr Fayed is throwing any amount of money at this case... his tactic is to try to bleed us white." But it was essential, he said, that the allegations were aired

in a court of law with its "completely different rules".

Sir Gordon had accepted evidence which a court would have rejected, he said. "We are not trying to second-guess Parliament. That is not true. Even if the court came to a different conclusion, that would not impugn a decision of Parliament because the standards committee did not come to a conclusion and if it did, it is a quite different kind of tribunal."

Lord Harris of High Cross, a founder president of the Institute of Economic Affairs, the free-market think-tank, is running a fighting fund to pay Mr Hamilton's legal bills, which could run to £500,000.

## Professor hopes for access to 'tomb of Christ'

BY RUTH GLEDHILL  
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

AN OXFORD don could become the first person permitted to measure and record a burial site believed by some to be the tomb of Christ.

Martin Biddle, professor of medieval archaeology at Hertford College, has established that a tomb found in the fourth century under a Roman temple in Jerusalem could be where Jesus was placed on the evening of the crucifixion in about AD 33.

Granted exclusive night-time access to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Old City of Jerusalem, Professor Biddle and his Danish wife, Birthe, have untangled the complex history of the site and its tomb throughout the ages. Now he hopes that a badly needed restoration of the 19th-century structure around the tomb will be allowed to go ahead by the three separate churches that control the site.

That would allow access to the rock-cut tomb believed to lie behind it. It would establish for the first time whether, as is believed by scholars, the tomb genuinely dates from the first century. Such an investigation could unearth clues to the origins of the tomb itself.

Professor Biddle gives an account of the tomb's history in *The Tomb of Christ* (Sutton Publishing), to be published next month. He said the tomb is in a fairly bad condition. A restoration would have to be fairly thorough, so there would be quite a lot to see. But we have no idea yet whether the restoration is going to go ahead.

The tomb is cared for by the Greek Orthodox, the Armenian and the Latin churches. Professor Biddle said: "Our overwhelming reaction is a sense of privilege at being allowed to investigate a place of such extraordinary sanctity, looked after by people whose entire lives are based on an acceptance of that sanctity."

## Angry Carey insists he is fit for the job

THE Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday angrily dismissed a report that he was "emotionally and physically exhausted", and surprised even his own staff by suggesting that he may continue in office beyond retirement age.

Speaking after meeting the Pope, Dr George Carey said he was "fed up with this kind of mischievous rumour-mongering". The Right Rev Graham James, formerly on the archbishop's staff and now Bishop of St Germans in Cornwall, was quoted in *The Sunday Times* as saying that Dr Carey, 63, lacked the "enormous amount of stamina" needed for the job at a time of falling church numbers, defections to Rome and Anglican in-fighting.

The archbishop described the report as absolute tosh, and said: "I am very vigorous and in very good form. People who talk like this should watch out: I am thinking of carrying on until 2005. There is a lot of life left in me yet."

Aides said that the archbishop, who preached at All Saints Anglican church near the Spanish Steps yesterday on "the difference between fact and interpretation", had previously refrained from telling even his closest officials whether

Archbishop gives first indication that he will stay on after retirement age, reports Richard Owen

er he intended to continue past 65. "He has kept up a tremendous dawn-to-midnight pace during his three-day visit to Rome," Canon Richard Marsh, his secretary for ecumenical affairs, said. "He is in fighting form."

Dr Carey, who last met the Pope in December 1996, was in Rome to dedicate a new £200,000 headquarters for the 30-year-old Anglican Centre, housed in the imposing Renaissance Doria Pamphilj palace, which also contains Italy's foremost private art gallery.

On Saturday hundreds of people lined the cobbled streets of the Trastevere quarter of Rome to cheer Dr Carey as he visited the Community of Sant' Egidio, a Catholic centre for missions to the poor and the Third World. He also took part in a service at the nearby church of Santa Maria.

"The Anglican Pope prays in Rome" reported *Corriere della Sera*. Senior diplomats accredited to the Holy See said the crowds were unprecedented. "There was nothing like this for any of his predecessors when they came to Rome, from Michael Ramsey to Robert Runcie," one said.

At his meeting with John Paul II, Dr Carey called for Christian unity in the run-up to the new millennium. The pontiff and the archbishop agreed to revive dialogue between the two churches, which has been hindered by disputes over the ordination of women and papal authority, by convening a conference in Canada in May next year.

Lambeth Palace said that the meeting would involve Anglican primates, including Dr Carey, and the heads of Catholic Bishops Conferences "from areas where there are significant numbers of Anglicans and Roman Catholics", including America and Africa. It will tackle subjects such as mixed marriages.

The Pope, 78, described as "sharp and lively", also agreed to work with Dr Carey to ease the persecution of Christians in Sudan and India and to relieve Third World debt.



The archbishop and the pontiff agreed to hold a conference to improve Church links

## Church to face Lords over right to property

BY RUTH GLEDHILL  
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A PLANNING battle over a patch of boggy land in a tiny Oxfordshire village may result in landowners across Britain denying the public access to their property, the Church of England has said.

The Oxford diocese's battle centres on the medieval principle of glebe land, property donated to the Church to help to pay for its clergy. It has received planning permission to build two luxury homes on a small plot of glebe land next to the parish church by the River Stort but the parish council at Sunningwell, near Abingdon in Oxfordshire, backed by the Countryside Commission, is claiming the plot has been common land for so long that it should be designated a village green.

The council has won the right to have its case heard at the House of Lords in April. If successful, it will stop the houses being built because development on a registered village green is illegal.

The Rev Richard Thomas said that the existence of a registered footpath across the patch of land had given rise to the impression that it was common land. "An adverse decision in this case would have major implications... for other landowners all round the country. Just as the Church might have to take steps to protect its historic assets, the same would apply to very many sites," he said.

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Clockwise from top left: Sophie Dahl, Katie Pakrik, Cate Blanchett, Dani Behr, Gillian Anderson, Kathy Lett, Kate Winslet, Thandie Newton, Natascha McElhone, Soraya Mire and Melanie Griffith

## Stars share lines in homage to female anatomy

GILLIAN ANDERSON, Cate Blanchett and Kate Winslet, stars of *The X-Files*, *Elizabeth* and *Titanic* respectively, were among the celebrities at the Old Vic in London last night for a Valentine's Day production of *The Vagina Monologues*, once described as "an 80-minute open letter to the female anatomy" (Dalya Al-berge writes).

The production was a success in America and has been a box-office hit since it opened on January 26 at the King's Head in North London, where it continues until March 7. Last night's performance was in aid of six charities, including the Rape Crisis Line, and tickets cost between £100 and £500.

The performance of the play, written by Eve Ensler, an American, caused excitement because a number of men — including Damien Hirst — were allowed to tread the Old Vic's boards for the occasion, joining 14 women to read the lines.

Ensler based her play about the sexual identity of women, on discussions with



Ensler asked what vaginas would say if they could talk

200 women of all ages and races about what their vaginas would say if they could speak.

One critic said "this short, clinical catalogue of how Ensler's interviewees feel about their own genitalia gives navel-gazing a whole new meaning — and is surprisingly fresh, funny and beguiling".

The piece is usually performed by Ensler on her own, but celebrities from stage, screen and literature joined her last night to share the lines of the monologues.

## Top male athletes develop anorexia

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

SOME leading male international runners are starving themselves and risking impotence in the pursuit of excellence, to the alarm of the authorities that run British sport.

The eating disorders anorexia and bulimia were known to have reached startling levels among elite British women runners but new evidence now indicates that they are also becoming common among men, who can suffer impotence when their hormone levels drop as a result.

A study of 200 leading women athletes, conducted by Leeds University in 1997, showed that at least 8 per cent had undergone treatment for eating disorders, a figure eight times greater than the average for that age group. It is now clear that more male athletes are seeking to lose weight in the belief that it will help them to run faster.

"The incidence of eating disorders, in both male and female athletes, is known to be on the increase," UK Athletics, the sport's governing body in Britain, said in a news release last week. Alma Thomas, a performance consultant for UK Athletics, has counselled several members of the Great Britain team who have eating disorders.

"Alma says there are three or four top British men who have an eating disorder," said Peta Bee, the prime author of an advice leaflet to be distributed this month among athletes and coaches. "Men are not always aware of the warning signs. They can be quite embarrassed, like they cannot get an erection because their body fat is too low and their

hormones drop. They go to Alma and say 'I am having a problem with my relationship' and she tracks it back to an eating disorder."

Qualified coaches usually lack the knowledge to recognise or deal with eating disorders. The Eating Disorders Association has been asked to help to train coaches as counsellors.

"We have heard some disturbing stories," Bee said. "One coach has weigh-ins for his athletes, all of whom are at international level, at the start of every training session. The person who has put on the most weight has to wear a pig mask to run in. It is putting the focus on weight rather than speed."

David Moorcroft, the former 5,000 metres world record holder and now chief executive of UK Athletics, said that fast-improving standards in middle and long-distance runners put greater pressures on British athletes. "As the challenge of becoming the best in the world gets harder, there is an increasing danger, certainly in endurance events, that people will push closer towards the line of anorexia," he said.

The issue has prompted the British Olympic Association (BOA) to join with UK Athletics and the Eating Disorders Association in staging an awareness conference on February 24. "It is something we are concerned about and the nutrition advisory group at the BOA has been looking across all the Olympic sports because we are concerned it is a real issue," Nick Fellows, general manager of the British Olympic Medical Centre, said.

## Genetics fail to allay women's cancer fears

MANY women still worry about breast cancer in spite of being reassured by genetic experts that they are not at high risk of getting the disease (Elizabeth Judge writes).

A Cancer Research Campaign survey questioned 282 women with a family history of cancer who had had counselling designed to reassure them about the risk. But after the

consultation a third of the women still thought that they had a high rather than moderate risk of developing cancer.

Dr Maggie Watson, of the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, which has set up a genetic counselling service, said: "We need to work on getting the message about their real risk across to them and to allay any fears they may have."

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Rubbish on Shakespeare Beach at Dover. Litter along England's southwest coast doubled over the past year but Scotland has Britain's dirtiest beaches

## Tourists blamed for big increase in beach litter

TOURISTS, fishermen, shipping and flytippers are to blame for a worrying increase in beach pollution around Britain, the 1998 Beachwatch survey has found.

The level of litter and other waste on beaches has increased by 24 per cent since 1997 and has nearly doubled since 1994, the report's authors say. Tourist rubbish, such as crisp packets, drink cans and cigarette stubs, was up by more than 20 per cent over the 1997 survey and topped the litter league in all regions, amounting to 36.7 per cent of the total.

The highest levels of rubbish were found in Scotland, which had 2.7/4 items per kilometre. The cleanest beaches were on the Channel Islands, where 1.2/2 items per kilometre were picked up.

Some beaches have deteriorated sharply. Volunteers discovered that the beach between the Dore estuary and the Ythan estuary in Aberdeenshire had 4.6 items of rubbish per metre compared with 0.5 items in 1994. Sandhaven beach in South Shields, Tyne and Wear, had 0.4 items of rubbish per metre in 1994, but 4.4 last year.

### Pollution levels along Britain's coastline up by 24 per cent in one year, reports Nick Nuttall

Another problem beach is Spa Pavilion, at Felixstowe, Suffolk, which now has almost three times as much litter as before.

The survey's backers, the Marine Conservation Society and *Reader's Digest*, are calling on councils, water companies, port authorities, the fishing and shipping industries and the Government to step up action against litter.

Samantha Pollard, of the Marine Conservation Society, said: "A plague of plastic litter is constantly spreading along our beaches and throughout the world's oceans, harming dolphins, seals, turtles and sharks, which become entangled in nets or fishing line and eat plastic pieces mistaken for prey. Plastic has consistently amounted to over 50 per cent of debris recorded for all our surveys."

Susannah Hickling, environment editor of *Reader's Digest*, said: "It is quite simply not acceptable that a third of

the rubbish found was dropped by visitors to our beaches. It is an easy problem to solve and if we don't dispose of our rubbish more carefully, we will be guilty of ruining our beaches for future generations and damaging our own tourist economy."

The survey, during which 3,344 volunteers cleaned 167km of 257 beaches in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands, was carried out last September.

Levels of litter in Northern Ireland were found to have increased threefold since 1997. In England, the South West recorded the highest levels, with litter doubling since 1997. The North West and the Isle of Man was the second dirtiest region in England, recording the highest level of sewage-related debris. Litter levels in Wales were down by 20 per cent.

Graham Setterfield, the water services director for the industry group Water UK, said that the report provided evidence that progress was being made on reducing the levels of sewage on beaches.

"This report clearly shows tourist debris is by far the principal cause of beach pollution. No one is doing more than we are to improve water quality around our coasts and no-one will be happier than the water industry when the problem of sewage-related debris is solved once and for all."

Oil residue is still polluting the Welsh coastline three years after the *Sea Empress* tanker spill near Milford Haven, environmentalists have found. In research for Friends of the Earth, 16 sites were identified where deposits of oil were found just below the surface.

#### HIGH LITTER MARK

Beaches in the Beachwatch survey with the highest level of rubbish and waste per metre of coastline

- 1: Ballyhomen, Co Down, with 69.4 items
- 2: Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, with 54.6
- 3: Spaldwick, Isle of Man, with 50.1
- 4: Coxside, Devon, with 42.2
- 5: Freshwick, Isle of Man, with 41.8
- 6: Chapel Porth, Cornwall, with 29.9
- 7: Laysdown-on-Sea, Kent, with 27.2
- 8: Little Falmouth Beach, Cornwall, with 27.1
- 9: Croyde-Down End, Devon, with 20.3
- 10: Chesil Cove, Dorset, with 17.7

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

### ID required for chat show guests

The BBC has introduced new security measures to stop fake guests appearing on chat shows after reports that *The Vanessa Show* had featured models and actresses. All guests must now provide identification and sign a declaration that reads: "My contribution will be entirely honest and truthful. I am aware that the BBC may take legal action against me if I mislead the BBC or if my contribution misrepresents the facts."

### Police accident

An 83-year-old man has been hit and killed by a police car in Leeds. Police said that the marked car was following a suspect in another vehicle when the accident happened about 9pm on Saturday in the Halton Moor area.

### Love from grief

Jonathan Thompson, 33, whose wife Vikki was murdered walking her dog in the Cotswolds in 1995, has married her best friend in Hook Norton, Oxfordshire. Lyn Trowbridge, 42, comforted him after the unsolved killing.

### Balloonists ready

The British balloonists Andy Elson, 45, and Colin Prescott, 43, hope to lift off this week from Almeria, Spain, to fly around the world, sponsored by Cable and Wireless. The rival *Breitling Orbiter 3* is awaiting lift-off in the Swiss Alps.

### Get back, Cashbah

Liverpool's Cashbah Coffee Club, where John Lennon, Paul McCartney and George Harrison made their first appearance together, is to be reopened to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the gig. The club closed in 1962.

### Lives in danger for lack of grit

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

LIVES are being endangered because local authorities cannot afford to grit country roads. It was claimed yesterday on the BBC programme *CountryFile*, which found that some councils have reduced their gritting budgets by hundreds of thousands of pounds.

AS heavy frost affected many roads yesterday, it emerged that only major roads are gritted. Local authorities say that to cover minor roads, they would need four times their gritting budget.

Paul Winters of the Automobile Association said: "About 700 people a year are killed or seriously injured on ice or snow-laden roads."

"A fatality costs society a lot of money and the costs and benefits of salting are, clearly, that it pays to save lives."

But Chris Walker, of East Sussex County Council's highways maintenance department, whose gritting budget has been cut by £200,000, said that it could not afford to do more salting. "If we were to salt all the roads, we'd need an extra £4 million," he said.

A spokesman for the Highways Agency, which is responsible only for motorways and trunk roads, said later: "We put a priority on winter maintenance for safety reasons. Maintenance and safety are two of the factors which the Government has made priorities so, if anything, spending will be going up."

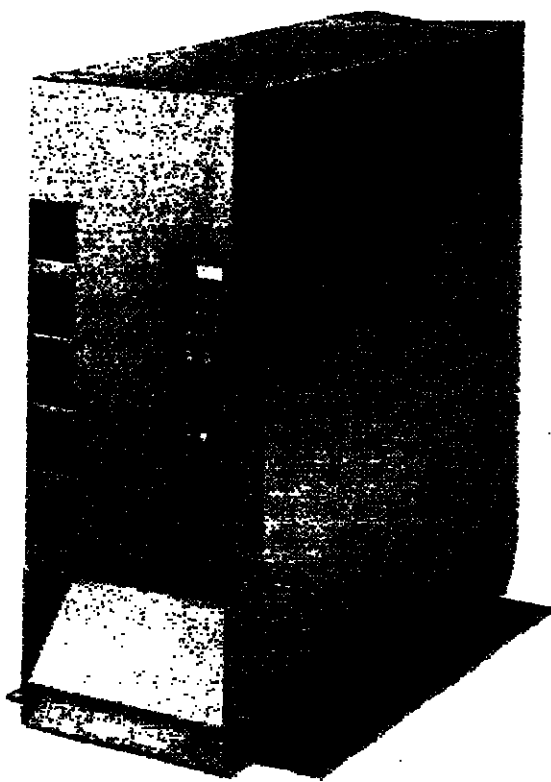
More than a million tons of salt are used on roads every year at a cost of £140 million but no more than 40 per cent of minor roads get a winter treatment.

Insurance companies say that a quarter of new claims arise when drivers skid on roads which they did not realise had not been gritted.

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**The future of British tourism lies in the past, writes Mark Henderson**

**BY MARK HENDERSON**

In April the British Tourist Authority is to publish a new edition of its pamphlet *Tracing Your Ancestors* and regional tourist boards will run their own promotions. Wales plans a "homecoming" drive around the Rugby World Cup this autumn and Scotland is highlighting Hogmanay celebrations in Edinburgh and Glas-



New millennium projects such as the Dome and the Low-

Deirdre Livingstone, millennium marketing manager at

pitched at the crucial American market. Visitors to Northern Ireland are told about the Ulster-American Folk Park at the ancestral Mellon family home in Camphill. Liverpool is presented as the embarkation point for millions of emigrants to the New World and Stirling as the site of the key battle in the Hollywood film *Braveheart*.



He has records of more than 27,500 Hebridean family trees. The archive, which Mr Lawson runs with his wife, has been awarded a £250,000 lottery grant for a centre that will open in April next year. If visitors take enough information on their families, it is possible to make links with relatives still living locally.



By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

Now 200 tree specialists and enthusiasts have formed a charity to give advice on the management and conservation of aged trees. The Ancient Tree Forum is helping to compile a register of every tree in Britain more than 400 years old and intends to lobby by government for help with their preservation. The direct



Most of the ancient trees once had to work for their living. The hornbeams that ringed London and still survive in places such as Epping Forest were pollarded to fuel thousands of ovens. Others were used for ship and house-building. Today many are neglected and in need of management to stop them toppling or splitting.

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# Carnival masks a serious political agenda

A judge recently ruled — to the approval of Rhinelanders — that a husband could not sue his wife for divorce merely because she has become pregnant by a random lover during carnival.

These are the "mad days", the *Tolle Tage*, in Catholic Germany, and while Cologne is not exactly Rio it does seem to hum with sexual energy. The partying began weeks ago but took off last Thursday — on Women's Feast Night — and comes to a climax today, Rose Monday, when in Cologne alone a million people are on the streets.

German Carnival has the same anti-clerical message as elsewhere in the world — a raucous, vulgar farewell to meat and the pleasures of the flesh before the 40-day Lent fast. But there has always been a political edge to German celebrations, and never more so than this year when Bonn holds its last carnival as a political capital.

Women's Feast Night began as a protest by the washerwomen of Beuel, whose job in the 19th century was to scrub the laundry of the grand hotels of Cologne and the burghers of Bonn. It was hard

## INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

work, badly paid, and they missed out on the drunken carnival carousing of the menfolk. So they formed their own carnival committee, elected their own powerful carnival princess and, according to legend, stormed the town hall. This event is re-enacted every year.

More importantly, women are allowed to run riot on this day. In ministerial offices women cut off the ties of their bosses in a castration metaphor. In the evening they abandon their husbands and go on noisy pub crawls.

For the past five years in the Rhineland, I have taken the moral high ground and found pressing business in a Protestant, carnival-free part

of Germany. This year, the last before the move to Prussia, I thought I would try to get to the bottom of it.

Is the carnival a truly anti-authoritarian, anti-establishment, anti-male domination jaunt? Is it merely a safety valve, a way of rationing German ribaldry to five days a year? Is it — a far more interesting question — a time of orgies, or is the sexual innuendo just bluster?

I disguised myself as a monk and joined the carnival session in Muffendorf. On the platform the jokes commuted between cracks about Monica, Les Dawson on misogyny ("my wife and I were perfectly happy for 20 years — then we met") and low-key political cabaret ("one good thing about having Rudolf Scharping as Defence Minister — we will never have a blitzkrieg"). Carnival soldiers marched on stage, flowers in the barrels of their fake muskets.

The carnival prince — a plump businessman who had paid tens of thousands of pounds for the privilege of being elected and wearing tights — greeted the revellers with more bad jokes. A transvestite



The carnival celebrations bring on the clowns in Düsseldorf yesterday. The revelry reaches its climax today

dancing troupe managed a Cher number. Below the platform I sat with a local dentist and his wife (both clowns), an interior decorator (Arab sheikh) and his increasingly tipsy wife (she-devil), the president of the international au

pair organisation (Gandhi) and his teacher wife (bad fairy) and other local dignitaries. The aristocratic family of the village, who once held vast estates in the Baltics, sat

on a central but subtly separate table. The local MP (another clown) was remarkably restrained. The dancing became wilder, the jokes cornier, the flirtation more outrageous as the night wore on.

But both on and off the platform there was a strong undertone of bitterness about the Prussians, the theft of the capital from Bonn.

Almost everybody there was anchored to the Rhine-

land and felt tense about the coming year; there was something wrong, they felt, about Germany moving its centre of gravity eastwards. Carnival mocks authority but only in the manner of a court jester, a jester who is licensed to laugh for a week a year.

Cologne carnival historians say the carnival revellers of the Third Reich defied and made fun of the Nazis. But there is scant evidence of that. Carnival floats in 1935 made fun of deported Jews; there has always been a slight anti-Semitic undercurrent.

At my favourite carnival event — the Cologne Detectives' Ball — the police commissioner, Jürgen Roters, was given a mocking award, but at the same time he was built up by the enthusiastic collection of cops as a future Mayor of Cologne.

Everyone wears a mask at carnival, nobody and nothing is quite what it seems. The apolitical or anti-political pose actually camouflages serious political activity. That is the unspectacular conclusion of my Rhineland investigation. As for the orgies, I made my excuses and left.

## Rio's revellers dance away the currency blues

BRAZILIANS yesterday cast aside economic woes, brushed off worries about runaway inflation and revelled to the seductive rhythms of samba at one of the world's most opulent and flamboyant carnivals.

Seemingly forgetting its currency gloom, or turning a blind eye to it, Rio de Janeiro is putting on one of its most expensive parades in decades. Millions have, in the past two days, also spilt out in skimpy beachwear to attend the street parties and the debauched masked balls.

Brazil is in the middle of its worst economic crisis in years, having suffered a 35 per cent devaluation of the real currency. Its Government is struggling to reduce a soaring high budget deficit to lure back jittery investors who have fled with their capital.

But no financial turmoil seems reason enough for Cariocas, as Rio's inhabitants are called, or the Brazilian and foreign tourists who have flooded the coastal city, to tone down the glittery and lavish carnival.

Unlike in Russia, where economic crisis led to general gloom and doom, and in the Far East, where stock price falls triggered waves of suicides, Brazilians have maintained their week of revelling religiously. Partygoers seem keen to do their utmost to forget looming recession and the ghost of inflation by delving passionately into four days of dancing, drinking and sex.

"There may be a crisis on, but most people will have tried to scribble and save to buy costumes and will let it all out over samba," said Jose dos Santos, a samba song composer of the Imperio Serrano samba school, which has its base in one of Rio's poorest slums. "This is a time when all inhibitions and worries are let go. We forget and just enjoy dancing and kissing non-stop."

There was no sign of austerity in the shows which began yesterday and will in the coming two days parade through a mile-and-a-half-long samba grandstand in the centre, known as Sambodromo.

Fourteen samba schools, all of which have 2,000 to 4,000 dancers and a 300-member percussion band, compete by putting on a show of music, lyrics, costumes and dancing. A jury decides on the best school at the end of the week when there is a final winners' parade and a cash prize.

## The samba-mad Brazilian street party is joined by Gabriella Gamini

The samba schools, mostly run by a gambling mafia, are said to have invested more than \$16 million (£10 million) to embellish their floats and feathered costumed dancers, and to launch their parades with expensive fireworks.

Thousands of even the poorest Brazilians save for months to buy a costume from their favourite school, which allows them to take part in the event.

I took part in the parade by one of the lowlier, poorer schools, Estacio de Sa, whose theme was the history of the shoe. I got my chance to see what it was like to parade in the world's biggest carnival by paying \$70 for a white T-shirt, tennis skirt and baseball cap pinned with numerous plastic tennis rackets.

Grateful for not having to dance in toe-crunching high heels and dressed up in a relatively humble outfit, I could not help gawping at the exuberance all around.

We started off with a 20-minute ear-bashing show of fireworks and spent 90 minutes dancing in tropical heat, led by percussionists crowned with feathers and fake gold-dusted turbans.

Despite a rise in price of imports, most schools have not forgone the use of cloud-making machines, confetti-throwing mechanisms, reams of neon lights and abundant real feathers. The Salgueiro samba school, one of the most popular, has included a lifesized aircraft as one of its floats.

Manguera, another popular samba school, will try to impress the judges with two miles of flashing neon lights to illuminate hip-thrusting and skimpily dressed dancers.

## LINKS

<http://www.carnival.com> - for carnival parties the world over  
 ■ For Rio carnival:  
<http://carnival.com>  
<http://123-rio.com/v.cgi/rjge00.htm> - has pictures  
 ■ For Germany's carnival season, go to worldwide carnival site:  
<http://www.das-fotoarchiv.com/karneval/cindad.htm>



Young dancers prepare for the weekend revels in the centre of Salvador, in Brazil's Bahia state

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# Russia's frozen outposts given \$9m food aid

FROM ALICE LAGNADO IN MOSCOW

THE Red Cross will next month begin flying more than \$9 million (£5.5 million) of emergency aid to the remotest parts of Russia's Arctic and Far East, where it says 80,000 people are facing starvation.

The aid organisation has launched an appeal in 175 countries to raise the money after finding severe shortages of food and medical supplies in the regions of Chukotka, Magadan and Kamchatka during a visit last month. The first consignments are expected to arrive within six weeks and include 90,000 22lb food parcels, warm clothing and medicine.

"Poverty in this region is appalling," said Boris Sjakovist, head of the Red Cross's Moscow delegation, at the appeal's Geneva launch last Monday. "Salaries and pensions have not been paid, shops have nothing to sell, hospitals have run out of medicine. Alcoholism and depression are taking their toll along with killer diseases such as tuberculosis."

The northern regions suffer unique problems in Russia. The eight million people there cannot feed themselves, for a

start. In Soviet times, huge amounts of supplies — more than ample — were sent in the expensive "northern delivery", run on military lines.

People were attracted to the area because the Government offered good wages in an attempt to exploit diamonds, gold, tin, platinum and oil in the regions. The "northern delivery" was a sweetener. When the Soviet Union collapsed, these regions fell apart, too. Those who settled there to make money have become the nation's poorest people.

Unlike central Russians, they cannot rely on kitchen gardens for food and there are even fewer jobs to go round. Mines and factories are deserted. Relocation would be economically impossible.

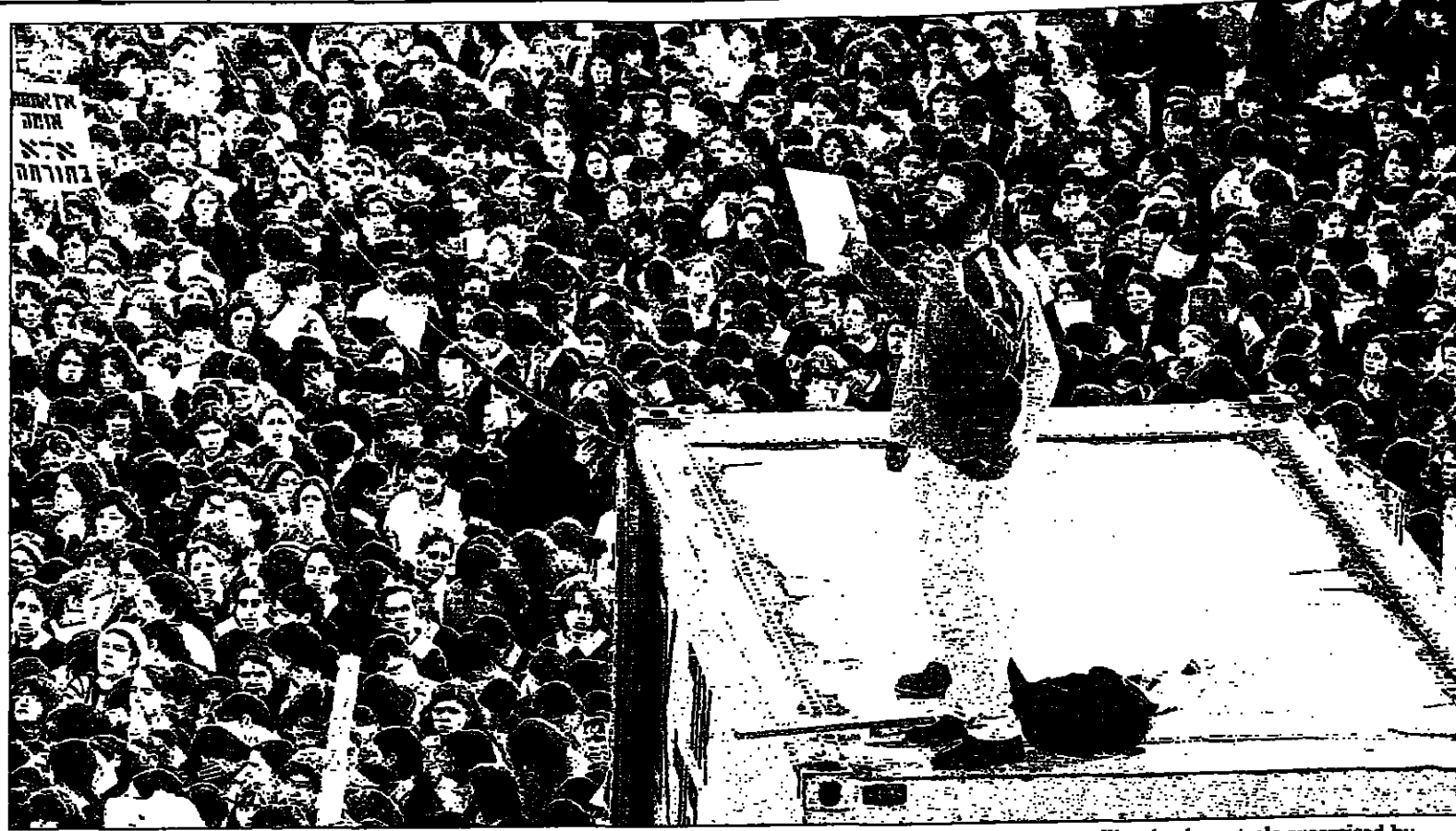
Though supplies are small compared to the handouts in Soviet times, they are still crippling Russia's economy. "You could take all the population of Koryak (a region larger than Britain with 50,000 residents), put them in five-star hotels in Moscow and give them three meals a day, and it'd be less expensive," Valeri Georg, deputy chief of the Government's committee responsible for the far north, told the *Moscow Times* in November.

□ Iraqi deal: The British Embassy in Moscow has been ordered by the Foreign Office to investigate allegations that Russia has signed a secret deal with Baghdad to repair and update Iraq's air defences, severely damaged by American and British bombers (Michael Binyon writes).

The deal, which would be a serious breach of the United Nations arms embargo, was said to include an upgrade of Iraq's fighter aircraft, especially its MiG26s and MiG29s.

DEEP divisions in Israeli society were manifested on the streets yesterday as an estimated 200,000 ultra-Orthodox Jews held a prayer rally against the judicial system, claiming it is biased against the religiously observant.

As a sea of black hats and suits — the uniform of ultra-Orthodox men — filled Jerusalem's main road, at a park



Thousands of secular Jews attend a Jerusalem meeting yesterday to support rulings by the Supreme Court rolling back controls exercised by ultra-Orthodox Jews. A rival prayer rally by the ultra-Orthodox against the judicial system was held on the same day, attracting huge crowds

## Jewish rallies clash over court rulings

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

nearby tens of thousands of secular Jews held a "pro-democracy" counter-demonstration. The secular protesters called on the Government to back the courts and the rule of law in the face of what they see as the growing power of religious Jews to interfere in the affairs of private citizens.

As helicopters hovered above the city, thousands of police were deployed in the streets to keep the two sides apart, in a military-style operation.

While the protest of the religious Jews was full of mournful singing and prayers, the demonstration by secular Israelis was filled with happier sounding music and a carnival-like atmosphere. But the hatred and fear of one another in the rival camps was probably equal in strength.

"I feel that one of the institutions of the Government, which is the judicial body of the state, is putting us up against the wall," said Emanuel Libro-

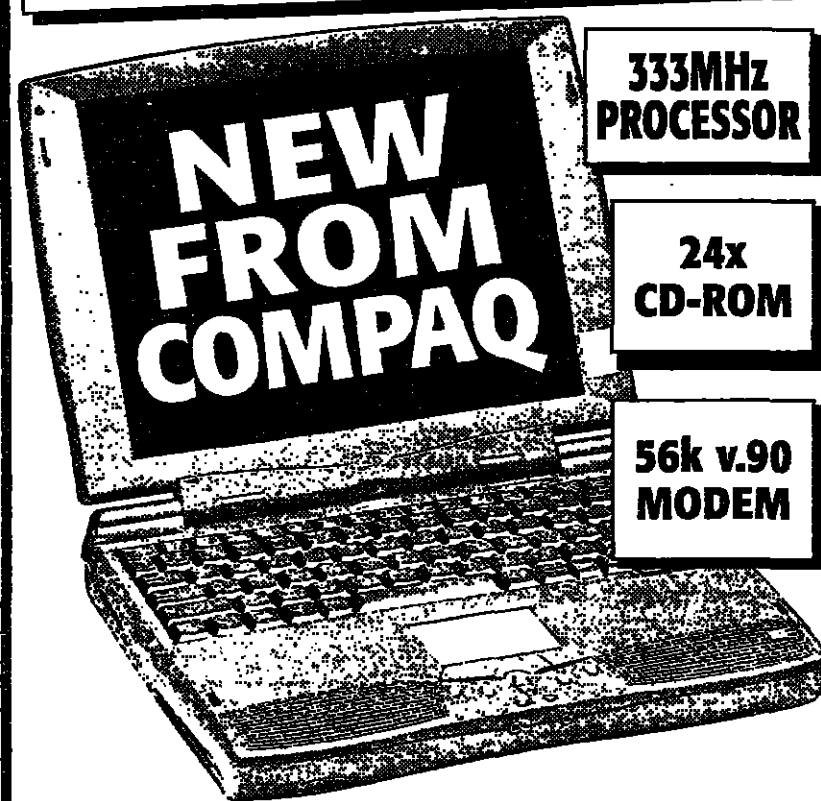
wicz, an ultra-Orthodox Jew, who came to join the protest by his group. He was reacting to a series of recent Supreme Court rulings rolling back the influence of the Orthodox Jewish religious establishment to control marriages, burials, conversions and behaviour on the Sabbath.

He feared that the secular and religious camps would divide the country into two hostile camps if the make-up of the courts is not altered.



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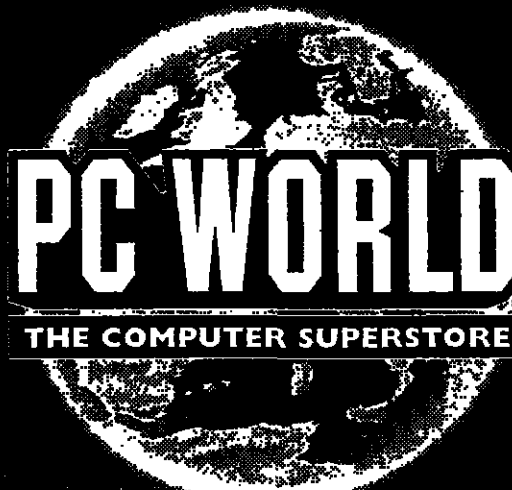
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## Vatican defends loners' graffiti

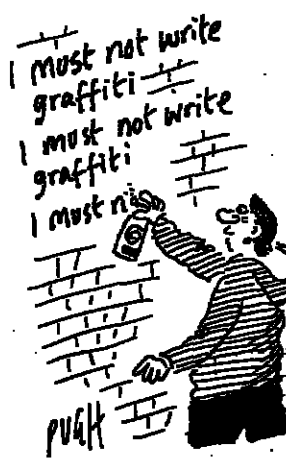
FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AUTHORITIES in Rome, Milan and other important Italian cities reacted with dismay yesterday to a Vatican suggestion that graffiti on urban walls could be justified as a *cri de coeur* by "isolated and lonely souls" lost in a "metropolitan wasteland".

Italian towns are engaged in multimillion-pound projects to clean their streets and buildings for the millennium celebrations, when Rome alone expects nearly 30 million pilgrims and visitors.

But *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, whose pronouncements are vetted by the papal authorities, said that graffiti were often the "cry of the soul against the indifference of society". It said vandalism and the defacing of monuments could never be condoned. But some graffiti artists were gifted and had left a "mysterious code on the walls of our cities". The newspaper added that there was a movement of anonymous artists and writers engaged in a form of "metropolitan expression".

Vatican officials said that *L'Osservatore Romano's* remarks were not intended to give carte blanche to vandals. "We fully back clean-up campaigns," one said. "There is no excuse for damaging



property". But graffiti artists should not be criminalised en masse.

The paper noted that graffiti were not a new phenomenon. In a nod to St Valentine's Day, it said that lovers had for centuries carved their initials on trees, often enclosed in a heart.

But *La Repubblica* said that the papal benediction was at odds with the graffiti war declared by Francesco Rutelli, Mayor of Rome, and his Milan counterpart, Gabriele Albertini. Signor Albertini recently offered a £200 reward to anyone who helped the police to catch vandals red-handed.

The mayors also expressed alarm over acts of vandalism in many poorly guarded art galleries.

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# British Kosovo mission gets hi-tech winter kit

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The boots alone, Matterhorns, are made out of soft leather with a Gortex lining and retail at £170. However, the Ministry of Defence has bought thousands of pairs, reducing the overall cost by a significant amount.

The standard army combat boot is not lined with Gortex and not completely waterproof. For the bitter weather conditions expected in Kosovo, ministers have agreed that the soldiers should have the best, and the Matterhorn boots fitted the bill.

For previous military operations, soldiers have had to resort to buying their own extra kit, including boots, to meet their personal needs. The winter kit handed out to all the soldiers for Kosovo will be based on the standard Combat 95 clothes, specially designed by an MoD textile research agency in Colchester to cater for all weathers.

It consists of a Kevlar helmet, body armour, cotton and acrylic combat trousers, thermal underwear, cotton shirt and a camouflage cotton combat jacket with fleece lining. There is also an assortment of T-shirts to add extra layers when the soldiers need more warmth, and a Gortex waterproof "top and bottom" outfit only issued a year ago.

However, the MoD has approved a whole series of extra kit for Operation Agricola that will be the envy of other Nato troops sent to Kosovo.

This will consist of a fleeceline hat with ear flaps made out of wool and man-made fibres, a face mask made from Nomex fire-resistant material, padded wool/acrylic socks, the

## Michael Evans reports on troop preparations for peacekeeping in Balkans

Matterhorn boots, a hood for the combat jacket and Gortex gloves. The Challenger tank crews are also being issued with two forms of tank suits, one of which is on trial with The King's Royal Hussars prior to general issue. The latest tank suit is made of cotton and acrylic material.

The sleeping bag for Kosovo will also have special extras. The standard army cold weather version will have an additional liner inside and a waterproof Gortex "bivvy bag" wrapped around the outside for added protection.

Final preparations were under way yesterday for loading all the heavy equipment for Operation Agricola onto ferries at the German port of Emden later today.

The two ferries, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels, *Sea Centurion* and *Sea Crusader*, are due to sail from Emden for the Greek port of Salonika tonight and tomorrow morning. The *Sea Centurion* will leave first at about midnight tonight. The two ferries will carry 400 vehicles, including Challenger I tanks, AS90 self-propelled guns and Warrior armoured infantry carriers. Two hundred logistics personnel will accompany the equipment.

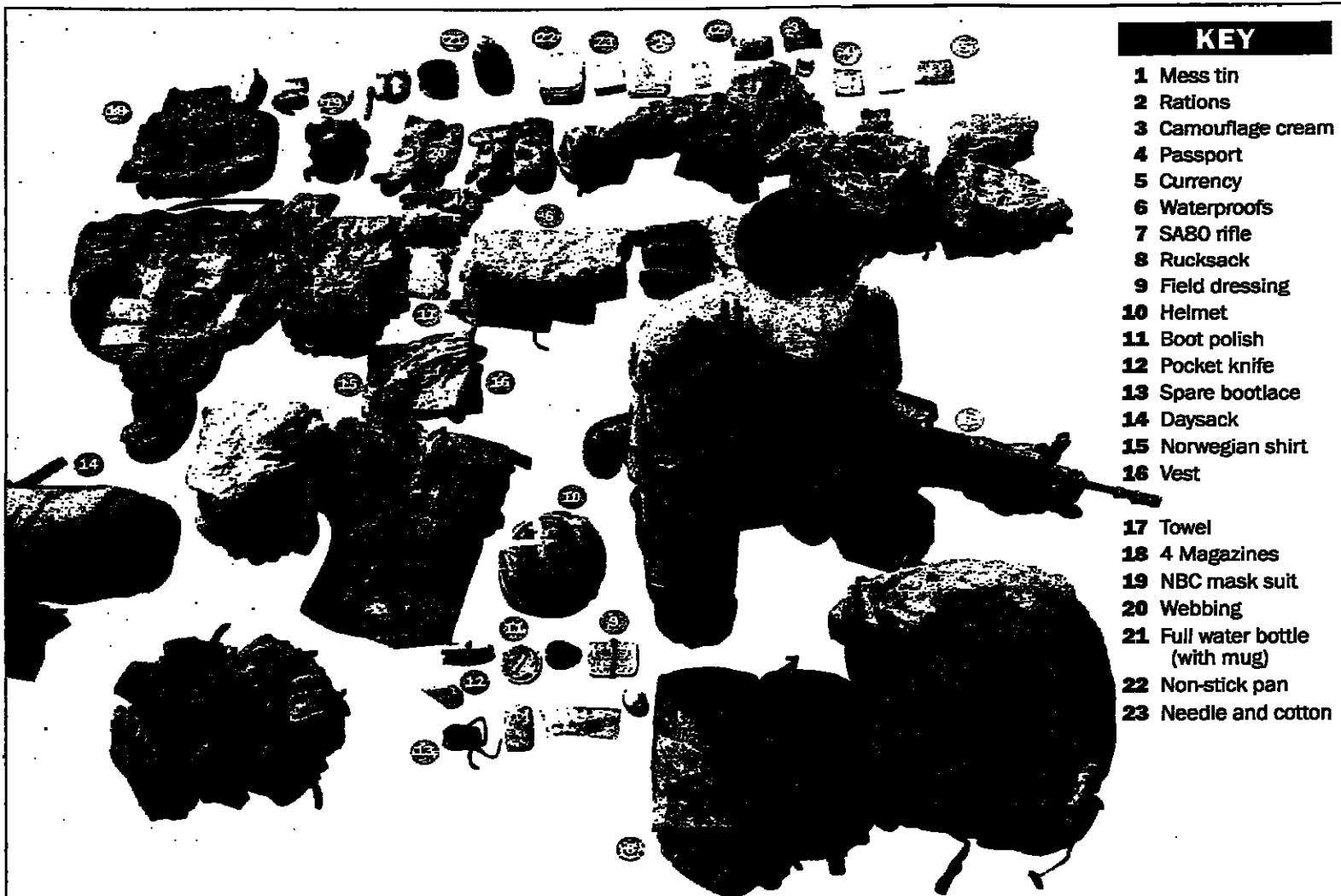
A further 200 logistical support troops, including members 17 Port and Maritime Squadron, based at the Marchwood military port in Southampton, will fly out to Salonika to prepare for the arrival of the equipment.

The rest of the 8,000-strong British force will wait until the two ferries are docked at Salonika before flying out to Greece to join their tanks, artillery and armoured combat vehicles, probably on February 25.

The "fighting element" of the British force will be a 1,500-man armoured battle group based around The King's Royal Hussars, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Powe.

The rest of the battle group for Operation Agricola will be made of soldiers from the Irish Guards, the Royal Artillery and the Armoured Brigade tactical headquarters.

The overall commander of Nato's proposed Kosovo peace implementation force (Kfor) will be Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Jackson, a British commander with extensive experience of peacekeeping in Bosnia.



### KEY

- 1 Mess tin
- 2 Rations
- 3 Camouflage cream
- 4 Passport
- 5 Currency
- 6 Waterproofs
- 7 SA80 rifle
- 8 Rucksack
- 9 Field dressing
- 10 Helmet
- 11 Boot polish
- 12 Pocket knife
- 13 Spare bootlace
- 14 Daysack
- 15 Norwegian shirt
- 16 Vest
- 17 Towel
- 18 4 Magazines
- 19 NBC mask suit
- 20 Webbing
- 21 Full water bottle (with mug)
- 22 Non-stick pan
- 23 Needle and cotton



Boots and weaponry are tested in training for the Operation Agricola peacekeeping mission

## Insane mirror war's madness

Unrelenting civil violence has condemned even the mentally ill to a time of agony, writes Anthony Loyd in Stimlje



THE perimeter fence surrounding the lunatic asylum in Stimlje should represent a clear division between sanity and madness. It does not.

However, at least those on the outside have some choices. For all the tragedies in Kosovo today, perhaps none is so cruel as the fate of the 350 patients in the province's only institution for the insane, who are the forgotten victims of a suffering land.

Their lot was meagre before the war. Such is their mental condition that none will recover or even hope to be released, according to the asylum's director, Vesna Stamenkovic.

The institution was one of the first to feel the pinch of sanctions against Serbia. In 1993 a cut in funding combined with a typhus epidemic killed 20 per cent of the patients. Since the start of the most recent crisis foreign nations, on which the asylum relied heavily, turned to a trickle, then stopped, as gunfire outside increased.

The patients are terribly sad, said Ms Stamenkovic. "We are running short of food, fuel, clothes, everything. The staff try to keep the lights down on the lower floors of the buildings when shooting starts - bullets are blown out some of the other windows and hit the patients - but it is difficult to control everyone."

Serb tank outside fired as spoke, the blast rattling windows. Minutes later a battle began in a nearby

wood as dozens of patients, many half-dressed, shambled around listlessly in the snow.

Most appeared not to notice the fighting, but a wild-eyed woman, barefoot and wearing only a torn nightdress, ran around imitating a machine-gun with a stick while a man rolled over in the ice in a parody of violent death.

There are technically 102 staff, but only one non-resident psychiatrist who visits three times a week. Of the others, few are trained specialists. The oldest patient is a woman of 95 who has been there since it opened 50 years ago. The youngest is a four-year-old girl, Sanela. Her story is particularly poignant.

"The patients are allowed to sleep with one another if they wish," Ms Stamenkovic said. "But, by the nature of their illnesses, if they become pregnant, the pregnancy is terminated. But Sanela's mother hid her pregnancy from us until the last moment."

"When she was born, Sanela was not disturbed. But there was nowhere to send her, so she stays here in the children's wing. By the nature of the company there, she is now a borderline case."

The wards are cold and bare, and stink of urine and faeces and slow death.

Ms Stamenkovic said: "In spite of all our problems, we have kept above this nationalism poison. Inside here we are punished only by God. Outside it is worse, for there men punish one another."

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# Texas star still plays hard to get



Hillary: solid support in New York

## Hillary weighs Senate battle

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

DECISION time is at hand for Hillary Clinton on whether she will run for the Senate from New York next year.

While flattered by the encouragement for her candidacy, she had deferred making up her mind until her husband's impeachment trial was over. With his acquittal last Friday, Mrs Clinton will be able to focus all her attention on consideration of the Senate idea, according to her spokeswoman, Marsha Berry.

White House insiders were quoted yesterday as saying that Mrs Clinton is drooping over the prospect, but others still doubted that she would take the plunge so soon after her year of living under the strain of the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

In recent weeks, the Hillary-for-Senate notion has grown far beyond media speculation into a groundswell that has energised New York Democrats in a way not seen since Bobby Kennedy won the seat more than 30 years ago.

Party soundings show Mrs Clinton has solid backing from women, trade unions, blacks, Hispanics and most voters in New York. Her support is so widespread that she will probably be spared having to compete in a primary.

THERE'S a touch of Tara about the Texas Governor's office. The sweep of the staircase outside, and the Dixie elegance of the furnishings within, only serve to emphasise that George W. Bush Jr is the Republicans' Rhett Butler — the man who operates behind enemy lines to secure famous victories, all the while living down a raffish past.

The Texas Governor's Southern chivalry was on display at the weekend when he played host to William Hague and his wife, Fiona, in the state capital, Austin, enrolling them both as honorary Texans and paying tribute to the Tory leaders' "very bright vision".

It was a diplomatically well-judged performance for a man himself gearing up for a general election. The Republican Party establishment is anxious that George W. Bush should wrest back the White House from the Democrats who stole it from his Dad. And the polls show Mr Bush well ahead of his likely opponent, Vice-President Al Gore.

After his meeting with Mr Hague, Mr Bush talked to *The Times* about the pressures on him to run for the presidency. "I've got to decide soon," he explained, "and I'll have to say yes, no, or maybe." It was a formula he has hidden behind for months, but he couldn't hide his relish for the chase.

Before there was time to ask which option was most likely, he was already outlining his strategy. "If we say maybe at first, then we set up an exploratory committee. I've already had talks with people about a policy agenda. Thinkers like Myron Magnet and David Horowitz have come down, and I've also had Dick Cheney and George Shultz."

The last two are veterans of George Sr's time in the White House, and are especially anxious to see a Bush restoration. "Oh yeah, they all want me to run." But, like Rhett, George Jr is still playing a little hard to get.

He makes a show of not wishing to forsake the Southern comfort of his Texas life-style. "It's a big sacrifice — it would be for you. If I do run, it has to be a decision of the head and the heart. In policy terms I know about education and taxes, but there are other issues such as foreign policy and defence I have to be happy with."

"I'm getting my head ready. But I also have two kids of college age — that's the time you spread your wings. If your

**Will Bush Jr run for President? It's either yes, no or maybe, he tells Michael Gove in Austin**

father's in the White House, that's it — you've lost your privacy forever."

Mr Bush knows the price in lost privacy that the children of politicians have to pay. His own "party animal" past has been raked over by those anxious to fling mud. He married late, after a period of hell-raising which still sets the censorious muttering.

But George "Dubya" (W), as he is known now, projects a virtuous image. There are hints of past raffishness in his twinkly-eyed flirtatiousness with aides, and in his magnificent cowboy boots which have his name and the title "Governor" picked out in the leather.

But he is anxious to appear a reformed character. He forswore alcohol after waking up at the age of 40 with a particularly bad hangover, and supports the pro-chastity

movement, True Love Waits, which enjoins abstinence on teenagers until they find their right partner.

Mr Bush has become a Republican Party sweetheart by combining a traditional line on social issues and a conservative position on taxes with an inclusive approach to those usually left outside the Republican family.

Mr Bush's conversation reflects a concern about educational under-achievement among the less well-off in his state, especially the Hispanic population. Unlike Rhett, George W. wants you to know he does give a damn. He talks with verve of the "individual who makes a difference" and also "the little armies of compassion".

George W. is already expanding on this theme of "compassionate conservatism" in preparation for the 2000 election. "I believe the next century will be a prosperous one," he argues, gently reminding you of his own success in delivering a budget surplus, "but it must be prosperity without anybody left behind."

Privately, Bush makes the point that rightwingers have been too identified with creating wealth as an end in itself. There must be more stress on the values which govern how wealth is used: there must be, in his words, "prosperity with a purpose".

Bush is a wealthy man, the former owner of the Texas Rangers baseball team, and he has access through his father's network to the Republican establishment and its campaign dollars. He could turn that prosperity to a clear political purpose, but he does not want to set pulses racing quite yet, and is coolly dismissive of the polls which show him so far ahead of Mr Gore. "I don't take polls. The polls said George H. W. Bush was going to win 18 months before the 1992 election, and look what happened there."

As we prepared to part, the Governor inquired if I had enjoyed myself in Texas. I assured him I had, but let him know that I wished I could spend a night getting to know Austin better. "You should head down to Sixth Street," he grinned.

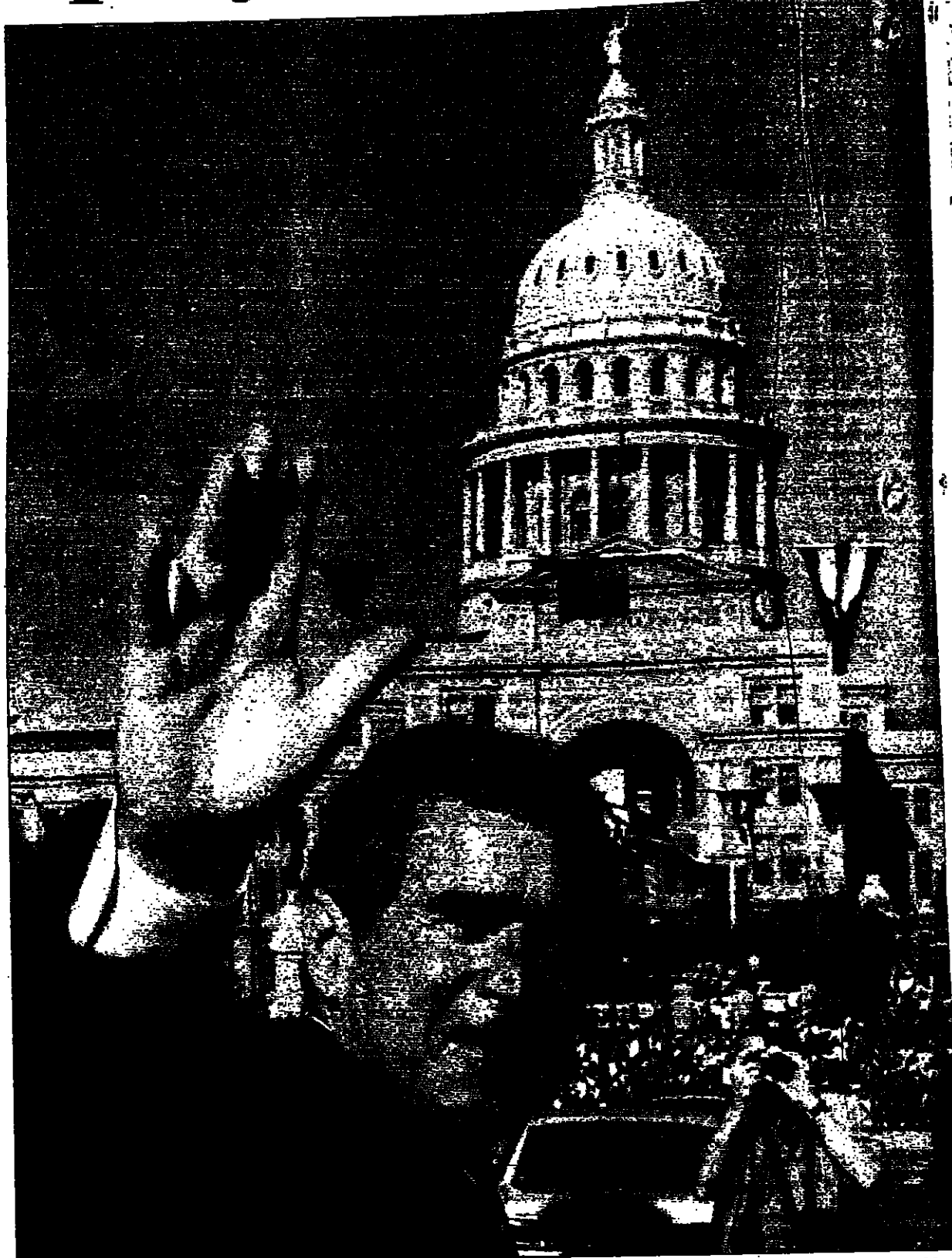
"Why, what's there?" I asked. "Bars," he explained with another hint of the party animal past. "Lots of 'em."

"Should I mention your name?" I inquired.

"Well, if you do, and end up



Gore: lagging behind Bush in opinion polls



Governor George W. Bush outside the Capitol in Austin, Texas, last month. "They all want me to run," he said

in jail, you ain't never gonna get out," he laughed. After our meeting, George W. was off for talks with the Governor of Louisiana. When asked just what these Southern politicians might be discuss-

ing in this pre-election season, Mr Bush would say only: "We're gonna talk crawfish étouffée. And I might shoot a little bird."

The insouciant, yet joshing pose was practised and easy,

but also evidence of a politician who gives attention to every detail, including how amiably to close down a verbal joust. As we left the Governor's office I couldn't help noticing another detail — even

the curtains seemed to reflect his character. The compassionate conservative's drapes were a rich deep blue, but attractively pink at the edges.

Leading article, page 1

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Bin Laden has moved out of his base in Afghanistan

## Bin Laden absence 'a Taleban ruse'

THE disappearance from his lair in Afghanistan of Osama bin Laden, the Saudi suspect of planning terrorist attacks on British and American targets, may be a ruse by Taleban's administration to ease mounting pressure on it to hand him over to the US.

Weekend reports of bin Laden's mysterious departure from the Islamic militia's spiritual capital of Kandahar came as the American deadline for his expulsion neared and US warships sailed close to Pakistan's territorial waters.

The reports fuelled speculation of yet another US missile

attack on bin Laden's camp, from where he allegedly guided terrorist actions against American installations.

Taleban leaders argue that there is no proof of bin Laden's involvement in terrorist activity. But last week they imposed restrictions on his movements and sealed the satellite phones that he uses to contact supporters. He was also prevented from talking to the media.

Informed sources have ruled out the possibility of the suspected terrorist leaving Afghanistan for Yemen, Iraq or Somalia, as had been widely reported.

## 'Sick strike' pilots must pay \$10m

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

LEADERS of an airline pilots' union pleaded with members to halt their "crew fit" protest after a Texas judge imposed a fine that could run to millions of dollars.

With thousands of pilots calling in sick, American Airlines has been forced to cancel hundreds of flights every day and has stranded close to half a million passengers. Federal Judge Joe Kendall devised his own cure for the absent pilots — a contempt fine of \$10 million (£6 million) that could go as high as \$90 million to cover the airline's estimated losses.

Judge Kendall, a former Dallas police officer who has a large portrait of himself hanging in his court, vented his anger on the Allied Pilots Association for ignoring his order to end the week-long "sickout".

He ruled that the pilots' actions were illegal and unless they ended quickly, he said: "All the assets of the union, including their strike war

chest, will be capable of being safely stored in the overhead bin of a Piper Cub — a tiny single-engine aircraft. Unfortunately, he continued, the radical element in the union was acting like New York Mafia families. The sooner determined to "take the mountain", taking themselves, the company and their co-workers and their customers with them.

The \$10 million, about quarter of the union's worth, must be paid into court by noon tomorrow as a do payment on a fine. Judge Kendall scheduled a hearing Wednesday to decide if the pilots' actions were illegal and whether the fine should be increased.

Faced with this judicial wrath, union leaders put an appeal on their websites: "We need to get! airline up and running as quickly as we need to do quickly."

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# Beastly behaviour

Before she became an RSPCA officer Jo Needs thought that Britain was a nation of animal lovers. How wrong she was. Interview by Anjana Ahuja

There is a biting chill in the Cheltenham air but Jo Needs, an RSPCA inspector, leaves the top buttons of her coat open. She does not wear a scarf or poloneck. Somebody tried to strangle her once and now she cannot bear to have anything around her neck.

"I had just qualified and was working on probation in Swansea," she says. "Someone had reported a pony tied up in a field. It was tethered so tightly that its head was an inch from the ground."

There was no water, no grass and broken glass scattered nearby. "I was running back to my van to call a vet when I suddenly saw a man leading the pony away. I shouted at him to stop but he didn't. I followed him. I should have realised that something was wrong but all I could think of was the horse."

The man led her to fields behind an empty school, where he threatened her with a metal spike and tried to strangle her. Fortunately, some people had seen Needs following the man and managed to intervene. He was jailed for nine months.

Typically, Needs, a vivacious and attractive 28-year-old, saw the positive side: "Before that I was probably too cocky, thought I could cope with anything on my own. It didn't cross my mind that I would get into a situation. I honestly thought that I would be able to reason with him."

Her attacker gained another conviction, for biting off his estranged wife's ear. He is suspected of having shoplifted him to the RSPCA.

Needs, who grew up on a farm in the Cotswolds, decided as a child that she wanted to work with animals. She always knew that working for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was not going to be about dressing cute creatures in bandages. But that nasty incident, four years ago, illuminated a hitherto unseen side of our complex relationship with animals.

As a BBC fly-on-the-wall documentary, *Animal Police*, shows, the pet owners who come under the scrutiny of Needs and her colleagues are as far removed from the cuddly world of Rolf Harris and *Animal Hospital* as it is possible to be. "Before I joined I thought we were a nation of animal lovers," says Needs, who features in the series. "Compared to some countries, I suppose we are."

"This job opened my eyes. I see animals that have been

starved, beaten, thrown out of windows. People still think it is acceptable to drown kittens. I have had cases where it is clear that an owner has had sex with their animal. I never knew that this went on."

Most cases the charity deals with do not stem from deliberate cruelty — its 310 inspectors deal more with ignorance than malice. Of 600 complaints handled by inspectors in Cheltenham and Gloucester last year, 500 involved giving owners advice (15 resulted in prosecutions, the rest in verbal warnings). Some calls are "you sometimes get reports of horses looking lonely and sad" — others are plain malicious.

One of today's calls, about a cat being kicked by children on roller-skates, seems to stem from a feud between neighbours. The mother of the children, a young black woman, claims that she is being racially harassed. She has installed a camera to monitor the front of the house, and says the situation is so bad that she has been issued with a mobile telephone by police. Out comes Needs, the negotiator — she sympathises, while gently reminding the woman that any animal abuse, no matter how abhorrent the owner, is intolerable.

A talent for diplomacy is just one of many prerequisites for becoming an inspector. Competition to join this elite is fierce: more than 2,000 people

apply each year for about 20 places. Despite her formidable personal skills and impressive CV (eight O levels, three A levels, a business studies course and a spell working in America), Needs had made contingency plans — if she had not been accepted first time, she would have tried to enter the police force, then re-applied to the RSPCA after gaining experience.

Candidates, who must be at least 21, undergo literacy, observational and psychometric tests, and are then invited to an interview. Getting on to the course in Horsham, West Sussex, is almost the easy bit — during their seven months' training, prospective inspectors must master legal matters and veterinary science, demonstrate prowess (swim-

ming, abseiling and operating a powerboat are on the curriculum), visit an abattoir and learn how to kill animals painlessly and deal with uncomplacent pet-owners.

Even though Needs has been bitten by a rottweiler (the middle finger of her right hand is now largely numb), it is the people, rather than the animals, who seem to be the hardest to deal with, which is why inspectors are trained in self-defence — people who abuse animals are sometimes very unsavoury indeed.

"On my visits I occasionally come across children with bruises and cigarette burns," says Needs. "I have seen people kick automatic weapons under chairs when I walk in the room. I never let on that I see, but as soon as I leave I tell social services or the police."

While she thrives on never knowing what she is going to confront, the stress gets to some. One of the 18 people she graduated with gave up after two years: "She got tired of the unpredictability of the role, never knowing what was behind the door. I sometimes get wary, too. But if you start worrying too much, you'd never knock on another door. Generally, people are quite positive. I do get the odd sexual comment but people shut up when they realise I'm serious."

If a call does look suspicious, inspectors visit in pairs. Otherwise, they work alone. Needs and her colleagues do meet once a week, though, in the regional office in Gloucester. "We are all odd and have a wicked sense of humour. We have a laugh and unwind," says Needs, who is known to her colleagues as the Belingo Babe, after the name of her new Citroën van.

Inspectors hit the roads at 8.30am every day and finish at about 5pm. Then comes the paperwork, which adds another couple of hours. Inspectors are on call every fifth weekend and do one night shift a week. Needs's spare time at her rented home in the Gloucestershire countryside is spent looking after her two dogs and five cats, all rescued, in the gym or writing short stories and poems (she briefly considered becoming a journalist).

Her husband, Gareth, a car designer, worries about the dangers and sometimes accompanies her on night visits. But he knows she will never give the job up.

"The day I got the acceptance letter from the RSPCA was the best day of my life," Needs says, laughing. "I knew that if it was a skinny letter, it was bad news, and if it was a big fat bundle, I had got it."

"When this bulky parcel arrived, I knew that my dreams had come true. I hugged the postman and cried my eyes out. Gareth knows how much I have wanted to do this and that it will always come first. There is a never a morning when I don't want to get up and go to work. I am lucky because it is fairly well paid, and I would do it for less."

Few people, one suspects, would have the stomach to do it at all, given the acts of wickedness that inspectors occasionally face. "I once found a kitten whose back legs had been chopped off," says Needs. "Blood was pouring out of the box. I was so glad that I was able to put it to sleep."

Other incidents stick in her mind. "The first was three greyhounds locked in a garden shed. When we went in we found only their bones. It stank of rotting flesh. There were rats everywhere and scratch marks on the door where the dogs had tried to claw their way out. People were living in the house. They never even turned up in court."

"The other involved a girl who went to live with her boyfriend, and visited her Staffordshire bull terrier only at weekends. It starved to death. You could fit two fists between its neck and collar."

A post-mortem examination showed that all it had in its mouth and stomach was dried spaghetti. It must have gone to a cupboard and tried to eat the first thing it found. "Offenders face up to six months in jail, a £5,000 fine and a life ban on keeping animals."

"I do see upsetting sights and I admit to going home and having a good cry and taking it out on my punchbag. But I know that there are animals I help."

"Sometimes it's just ignorance, or the way that people have been brought up. I once came across a man who



An illegal breeding establishment: most cases that the RSPCA deals with do not stem from deliberate cruelty

locked his dog up in a filthy lavatory for 23 hours every day. There were faeces everywhere. I asked him to step into the toilet, then closed the door behind him, so that he knew how it felt."

"The next time I came to visit he had built a kennel and a run. When you see an animal that has been living in terrible conditions and go back a few days later and they are much happier, you think 'I did that'. It's better than a prosecution, because in those cases the damage has already been done."

Needs says she would give up the job only if she felt she was becoming desensitised. "I have heard that some people

have left because of that, and I hope it never happens to me. You have to distance yourself from what you see and be professional, but it still upsets me when the cat brings home a rabbit. If I stopped being upset, I'd quit."

She suddenly thinks of another reason for leaving — winning the lottery: "I won £2,500 once, and I buy at least one ticket every week. If I won a million, I'd set up my own animal rescue centre. But I'd buy a Chanel suit and a Vivienne Westwood dress first."

Women, it seems, are also happy at the idea of getting their men out of their hair: 68 per cent found their part-

ner's glum, twitchy presence a distraction from the business at hand. They wanted the man along only to do the driving, or to get him out of the house.

But where did this infuriating idea of treating your man like an extra child come from? From observation at the 55-checkout Peterborough superstore, where male shoppers already take comfort from a giant sports screen over the aisles.

"There's a lot of congestion by the screen," says Melodie Schuster, a spokeswoman. "The men just stand there with their mouths hanging open. You have a hundred things to buy, and have to weave in and out between them down the aisles. Put them in a separate room and there will be more space."

So while women have advanced from the kitchen to the boardroom, men have regressed from the boardroom to the playroom.

While the average woman now does only 65 per cent of domestic chores, compared with 80 per cent in the Sixties, women still do most of the washing and ironing around the house.

The one big change, highlighted in a recent British Social Attitudes Survey, is that half of all couples now say they share grocery shopping equally. But if the Tesco concept catches on nationwide, even this small advance is likely to be eroded.

Tesco is unrepentant. "It's better to put your men into an environment where they will be happy," says Schuster. "You can call Kevin once you get to Aisle 4 and he'll collect the shopping, put you in the car and run you home. Everyone's happy."

## Tesco brings out the baby in men

Store crèches aim to ease male angst, says Vanora Bennett

Whatever happened to the hunter-gatherers of prehistory, our tough, hairy, spear-wielding male ancestors who could be relied upon to venture out of the cave every rainy Saturday morning and bring home the bison?

Their descendants live on in our cities and suburbs, but Tesco's latest consumer research has cast serious doubt on whether the would-be British man can survive in the concrete jungle. So angst-ridden are today's

men about the weekly grocery shop, Tesco says, it is creating a stress-free in-store play zone where men can take refuge while their female mates fight through the aisles to grab the meat, veg and teabags needed to sustain 20th-century life.

"The plan is for a crèche for men, where women can leave their husbands and boyfriends," says Russell Craig, Tesco's spokesman, suppressing a giggle. "It will have a video wall, sports magazines, fruit machines and pinball games."

The idea — to be tested out at Tesco's new superstore in Peterborough, Northamptonshire — is based on research showing that 74 per cent of men would rather stay at home watching sport on television than go food shopping, but 46 per cent were scared their partners wouldn't speak to them if they refused to go. (Not surprisingly, the 21 per cent who said they enjoyed visiting supermarkets did so only because they could steer the trolley.)

Women, it seems, are also happy at the idea of getting their men out of their hair: 68 per cent found their part-

ner's glum, twitchy presence a distraction from the business at hand. They wanted the man along only to do the driving, or to get him out of the house.

But where did this infuriating idea of treating your man like an extra child come from? From observation at the 55-checkout Peterborough superstore, where male shoppers already take comfort from a giant sports screen over the aisles.

"There's a lot of congestion by the screen," says Melodie Schuster, a spokeswoman. "The men just stand there with their mouths hanging open. You have a hundred things to buy, and have to weave in and out between them down the aisles. Put them in a separate room and there will be more space."

So while women have advanced from the kitchen to the boardroom, men have regressed from the boardroom to the playroom.

While the average woman now does only 65 per cent of domestic chores, compared with 80 per cent in the Sixties, women still do most of the washing and ironing around the house.

The one big change, highlighted in a recent British Social Attitudes Survey, is that half of all couples now say they share grocery shopping equally. But if the Tesco concept catches on nationwide, even this small advance is likely to be eroded.

Tesco is unrepentant. "It's better to put your men into an environment where they will be happy," says Schuster. "You can call Kevin once you get to Aisle 4 and he'll collect the shopping, put you in the car and run you home. Everyone's happy."

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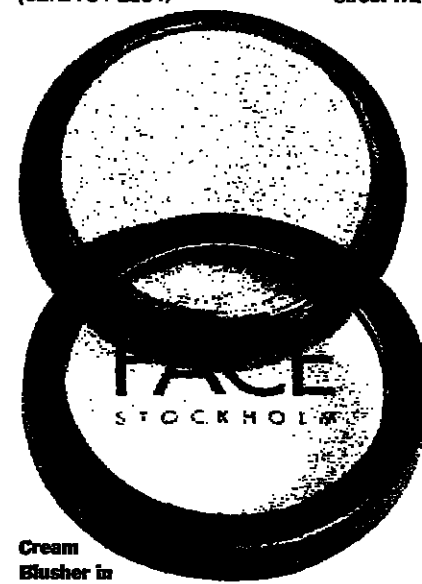
## MAKING UP IS NOT HARD TO DO

## Getting the look: key beauty trends

let's get something straight

Let's Get Something Straight hair-straightening serum, £9.50 by Philosophy, available from and Liberty (0171-734 1234)

Lip Gloss, £8.50 by Ruby & Millie, available from Selfridges, Oxford Street W1 (0171-629 1234)



Cream Blusher in Milan, £12 by Face Stockholm, available from Liberty (as above)



Stila Liquid Make-Up, £24.50 available from Space NK (0870 169 9999)

● Packaging that reveals the inner workings (like the Pompidou Centre): Ruby & Millie's transparent eye and lip pens, £8.50, Boots, Harvey Nichols and Selfridges.

● Natural, easy to use, multiple-use products: Nars's Multiple, a blush, eyeshadow and lipstick in one, £26, Space NK.

● Cosmetics that also treat the skin: Chantecaille's moisturising eyeshadows with antioxidants, £16.50, Space NK.

● Personalised scents: Forget big brands, be individual. Try Jo Malone Scents, £29.50, Jo Malone. Or go for shower gels and soap powder such as Tocca's Laundry Delicates, £9, Space NK.

● Blushers that give a just-been-for-a-brisk-walk look: Nars has one called Orgasm, £16.50, Space NK.

● Sheer foundation that reveals the skin beneath: Stila's Liquid Make-Up, £31; Chantecaille's Real Skin, £39, Space NK.

● Free-sale shopping: No more over-madeup hags trying to sell you the whole range, but a new breed who will introduce you to lots of lines. See Selfridges in London.

● Making a focus of one feature: It's eyes or lips, not both.



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## Call sign to bag the VIPs

THERE has always been an element of competition among designers who want to give favoured guests a memorable party bag at their fashion shows. Will it be their latest gift-wrapped scent (not an option for most British designers, who don't have one), sunglasses, an ornamental fan...

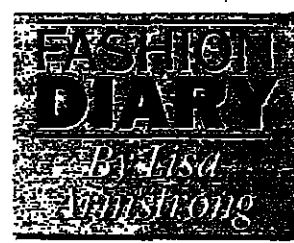
Designing the invitations so that they stand out from the hundreds of others is another source of stress. In France, naturally, there is even an award every season for the best invitation. Last season it was won by John Galiano for his animal-print evening bags, which contained the invitation, streamers, lipstick, (fake) pills that looked like Qualudes — everything, in other words, that Galiano Girl requires for a night out.

This season Matthew Williamson has upped the ante — he has signed a deal with Motorola to provide VIP guests with its latest technology, a teeny mobile that makes last season's Nokia look a tad bulky. Williamson has even designed special beaded and velvet-trimmed bags for the phones, which will be sent out with the invitations soon. It's fendishly clever: not only will the speculation about who is sufficiently a VIP to receive the Motorola last from now until

after the show in a fortnight's time but, as Williamson says "anyone not in their seat 15 minutes before the show starts will be easily contactable".

■ ASKED once whether she would choose to be born beautiful or stylish, Anna Wintour, the Editor-in-Chief of American Vogue, opted for beautiful because "style, hopefully, can be learnt later". Style can, perhaps, be learnt, but only by those with a predisposition. The rest of us have to settle for looking smart, or for being "appropriately" dressed, or for aiming always to have enough all-purpose basics in our wardrobe so that we never have to say we haven't got a thing to wear. On the face of it, these don't seem very high-flying accomplishments — until you try to achieve them.

What Should I Wear?, subtitled Dressing For Occasions (Thames and Hudson, £16.95), landed with a thud on my desk this week (it's coffee-table size, with more than 200 pages), promising to help. It's the latest in the Chic Simple series of books that, since their inception five or six years ago, have provided advice on everything from selecting the right paints and tools (truly) to buying the right furniture or wardrobe accessories. With their earnest



dicta (each book opens with the legend "the more you know, the less you need") and accent on keeping up with the Joneses, the Chic Simple books are so much a product of the Nines that they already have a period feel. That said, there is a

lot of good advice. The fact that every item of clothing is shot as still-life, rather than on a model, means the book looks great, although not having to deal with a real person seems an easy way out. What's interesting is that such a Nineties product should be promoting the idea (not always fashionable, but correct in my view) that rules, however much they have mutated, still apply.

What Should I Wear? tends to promote a scientific, orderly approach to clothes, rather than the emotional response that makes buying fun. For instance, how to choose the right

coat: "Look for a coat you can wear when dressed up or down (a reversible coat or one in black, which also won't show the dirt). As with your suitcase, think lightweight (microfibres)" and so on.

While science and orderliness have a place in getting dressed, this means that many of the recommended items veer towards the conservative. But even if you only dip in, this book will make you review some practices. It won't make you stylish but, come the urge to buy a neon-yellow dress, it may prompt you to get matching accessories.

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MAKING UP IS NOT HARD TO DO

# Britain's new beauty barons

The cosmetics business was once dominated by French and American brands. Now that has all changed as four British entrepreneurs have developed their own highly individual ranges

Jo Malone, purveyor of some of the most fashionable scents in London and New York, has just stepped off a plane from Chicago, where she starred in an Oprah Winfrey television special on entrepreneurs. Nicky Kinnaird, the managing director of the Space NK Apothecary beauty chain, has been nominated as Businesswoman of the Year.

Meanwhile, three months ago, Ruby Hammer and Millie Kendal launched a range of upbeat, mid-priced cosmetics that is well on target to achieve a turnover of more than £5 million in its first year. Meet Britain's new beauty tycoons.

Ten years ago ambitious young British entrepreneurs did not make their way into the beauty industry. This was for a good reason: that apart from Yardley, which reeked of

mending-and-making-do virtues, the Body Shop and a few cheap, teenage brands, there wasn't one. Beauty, so the wisdom of the times went, was in the eye of the French and American brands. So savvy entrepreneurs here set up mobile-phone companies, headed for the nearest silicon valley or went into real estate.

For two years Nicky Kinnaird contemplated taking on a nearby retail site. She took on the lease when it became available in 1993 and, at 27, set up Space NK, a store dedicated to hip new fashion designers. Space NK broke most of the rules when it was launched in Covent Garden in the depths of a retail slump, and without any external presence (entrance was via an escalator that was all too easy to miss).

Within a year, it was apparent that the beauty sector, with its tempting mixture of the traditional (Kiehl's) and the obscure (Kinnaird introduced Sita and Philosophy, among others, to the UK), was the shop's runaway success story. She ditched the clothes. "Make-up is a lot less seasonal," she says. Six years later, with nine Space NK shops nationwide, a successful mail-order catalogue and a transformed landscape across the beauty floors of the country's leading department stores, it's a wonder she didn't take the plunge earlier. Kinnaird was born and raised in Belfast and has always loved cosmetics. She talks of "that camaraderie you get as a teenager when all your friends come round to put their make-up on together before going out, and the smell of cologne

that I remember when I walked around the cafés at night on holiday in Spain".

Abiding as her love for cosmetics was, she had never liked shopping in department stores. When Space NK divested itself of clothing to concentrate on make-up, the idea was to introduce Britain to the delights of specialist shopping.

"There had always been small shops on the Continent selling lingerie or lace or face creams," she says. "Their service was much more personal and I felt the products looked much more tempting. Also, I wanted people to feel that when they walked into Space NK, they weren't just going to get one range pushed at them."

Malone says. "British women now feel much less guilty about spending money on themselves. They want value for money, but that doesn't necessarily mean the cheapest."

Malone, who set up her shop in Walton Street, Chelsea, at about the same time as Kinnaird was hatching Space NK, shares an evangelical enthusiasm for what she does. But whereas Kinnaird was experimenting with Miner's at 13, Malone, whose mother Eileen was a beautician, was sitting in laboratories at the age of six. At nine she was mixing her own potions with a pestle and mortar. By the time she was 17 she had 20 to 30 clients, who visited her flat and guarded

her name with a Proustian fastidiousness.

Then her bank manager foiled her plans. She wanted to create perfumes but he wouldn't lend her the £200 she needed to go to Paris. Undeterred, she sold some jewellery, bought a return ticket to Paris and, because she hadn't enough money to stay in a hotel, spent a day in a laboratory there designing her first scent.

There was no money left to turn it into an alcohol-based fragrance, so she took the sample back to her kitchen in London, used the money her husband had earmarked for a bed to buy a kilo of oil and 200 plastic bottles, and turned her potion into bath oil, which she began giving to her clients as thank-you presents. It was only when one of them asked her for a hundred bottles to give to her party guests, 86 of whom called her the following week to get hold of more, that she began to sell it.

There are now 14 Jo Malone scents. All of them are highly distinctive, as you might expect from someone who was once moved to nip into the lab after scrolling down the Champs-Élysées hand in hand with her husband and smell-



Ruby Hammer, left, and Millie Kendal launched a range of mid-priced cosmetics that should gross more than £5 million in its first year



Kinnaird's timing was impeccable. The only way for retail in the dark days of 1993 was up, she says bullishly. Also, after years during which superbrands such as Estée Lauder and Revlon had reigned supreme, customers were becoming increasingly receptive to small, individual lines, some of them launched by make-up artists they dimly recalled from glossy magazines, others entirely obscure.

"British consumers had become so educated and discriminating by the early Nineties that they no longer needed the safety net of big-brand advertising before they'd invest in a product," she says.

To gauge the influence that Space NK has had in the intervening years, you need only look at the overhaul of the beauty departments in stores such as Liberty, Debenhams & Jones and Selfridges and the invasion by increasingly arcane ranges.

"Nicky Kinnaird has done an enormous amount to change attitudes to beauty," Jo

Malone says. "British women now feel much less guilty about spending money on themselves. They want value for money, but that doesn't necessarily mean the cheapest."

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ing the food from restaurants mingling with the lime blossom lining the avenue. The result, French Limeblossom, contains a twist of tarragon to evoke the cooked-food element and, like all her scents, is deliciously unique.

"The days when everyone wanted the same scent are over," she says. "It's easy to make one sale; to get a repeat you have to educate. I want to teach women how two different scents can take a daytime outfit into evening."

Malone, now 34, is the creator of a beauty and scent range that has been the bestseller at Bergdorf Goodman in New York for two consecutive months, an unprecedented feat for a British brand. But despite plans to launch a range of fragrances that will be more widely available, she is anxious not to expand too fast.

Millie Kendal, 31, a former beauty PR, and Ruby Hammer, 37, a well-known make-up artist, are, by contrast, happy to expand as quickly as possible. The two had been friends for eight years: Kendal handled the PR for Aveda, the American eco-range that Hammer's husband George introduced to Britain.

"It was George who spotted the potential of putting the pair of us out there as a commercial concept," says Kendal. Both are make-up addicts and come to the business from "a consumer angle — everything had to be super simple and look great" (they hired the designers Wright and Teague to produce the eye-catching, transparent packaging).

Ruby and Millie were extremely smart in launching with the backing of Boots, which has woken up to the appeal of personality-based make-up ranges. Investment from the country's leading cosmetic manufacturing company meant that their range benefited from impressive research and development and could sell at medium-price points. The most expensive product, a foundation, costs £15.

But their big coup was getting the brand into chichi stores such as Harvey Nichols and Selfridges, as well as 20 or so branches of Boots. They will launch in The Netherlands in June, Thailand and Japan at the end of the year and

don't even ask how many faces they receive each week from *Allure* magazine, New York's beauty bible.

While it's clearly gratifying for two make-up junkies to have a brand of their own, the differences between the two national approaches can probably be summed up as follows: while the likes of François Nars and Bobbi Brown fly Concorde into London to make much trumpeted "personal appearances", Hammer is still travelling the world as a sessions make-up artist. Kendal's most recent personal appearance was at the counter of her local Boots in Brent Cross.



Boyd: magpie

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Describe your personal style. Eclectic magpie: anything that glitters.

What period do you love? The Thirties for their glamour and craftsmanship and the Sixties for their guts and madness.

What accessory can you not live without? My Solange Azagury engagement ring — a daisy with a circular, pale-pink stone with plum petal-shaped stones around it.

What is your pet hate? Catwalk nightmares that look ridiculous and unflattering — padded bottoms, humped shoulders.

What do you think of current trends? I love the combination of a masculine cut with feminine trims, and the use of technology, such as cutting fabric with lasers to recreate a hand-crafted outfit.

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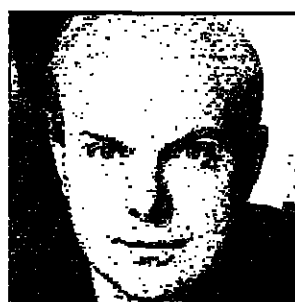
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# THE TIMES ARTS

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FACING PAGE



## France adores Chic By Jowl

It is not quite like teaching your grandmother to suck eggs and have her thank you for it, but there is something equally engaging about Declan Donnellan's latest adventure abroad. Donnellan was approached by the organisers of the Avignon International Festival, France's prestigious annual theatre celebration, and asked if he would like to direct a production. *Le Cid*, Pierre Corneille's verse drama of 1637, was his choice. "And they said, 'Ah, that's very difficult,'" Donnellan recalls. "There was a famous production, it's very difficult to follow. I thought it was a joke. And then I discovered it wasn't."

Put simply, he had chosen a play right at the heart of France's love affair with its own theatre heritage. Jean Vilar, the festival's founder, had directed a production of *Le Cid* in 1949 that passed into folklore. Here, it seemed, was the definitive staging of one of the most celebrated works in the entire French canon. Only a fool or an upstart would dare to re-stage it at the scene of Vilar's success.

Donnellan pressed on, and the shadows behind him were shown as just that. His production was the hit of last summer's festival, lavishly acclaimed for its modernity, its theatricality and its eye-opening perspective on a play that everyone thought they knew.

The production vividly recalls the kind of theatre which Donnellan produced as the director of *Check By Jowl* — almost balletic in its fluidity, precise and clear in its meanings. The dazzling Avignon run was followed by a swiftly organised tour of French towns and cities. Later this year the company travels to New York and possibly Russia and Africa. Right now, though, you can catch it at London's Riverside Studios.

*Le Cid* revolves around a duel fought by the young Rodrigue and the nobleman Don Gomez. The latter has insulted Rodrigue's father.

**Declan Donnellan  
took on Corneille  
in his own back  
yard — and won  
over a nation, writes  
Andy Lavender**

He is, himself, the father of Chimène, the woman Rodrigue loves. She is understandably torn once her suitor emerges victorious. On the surface, at least, the story is about those dry-sounding virtues, honour and duty. But that, says Donnellan, is only half the story. The play is written in alexandrines, couplets arranged to a syllable-count with a mid-line break and alternating rhymes. This pristine structure, he argues, contains a mass of darker stuff.

"It's written to be half of a whole," he explains. "So when somebody says something, they're also saying the opposite. As soon as Rodrigue speaks of honour he speaks about shame at the same time. What's fantastic is that Chimène absolutely wants him dead at her feet and she absolutely wants him in her bed."

Characteristically, Donnellan's rehearsal process got the actors to explore such stuff through the very way in which they moved. "At the beginning we did a lot of work to really understand that verse is very little to do with the intellect, that it comes from the body. The actors were fantastically open. I can't imagine a French director coming to England and telling the English how to speak blank verse."

In the most striking departure from tradition, the production's hero is markedly unheroic. The newly quivering Rodrigue is played by William Nadytam, a black actor chosen after Donnellan had auditioned more than 200 performers —

another forward move, in a country not known for integrated casting.

Nadytam is clearly taken with the director's methods. "Declan makes me think about a grandmother that has very old recipes that you would laugh about, but that make you stay alive," he says. "And he makes me think of a little brother who comes to you with his big, innocent eyes and asks you questions that you have to answer."

What next for this intriguing figure? Donnellan is returning to London to direct productions in the West End of Noel Coward's *Hay Fever* and *Sophocles' Antigone*. Next year he might return to Russia, where he recently staged a production of *The Winter's Tale* for the renowned Maly Theatre in St Petersburg (the show begins a tour of Britain in April). "I do feel that I'm broadening, and I feel good about that," he says. On the other hand, he claims to be uncomfortable with a freelance existence.

Donnellan and Nick Ormerod, *Check By Jowl*'s designer, might still relaunch the company they put in storage, but on altered terms, one presumes. "Nick would very much like to have a space," says Donnellan. "I'm very interested in having a company of actors. Maybe I could have a company in France if I couldn't in England."

This sounds like both a wish-list and a warning shot. Decent support, or goodbye. It's hardly the way of the British funding system to go out on a limb for talented individuals. But there can be little doubt that Donnellan is making ground as an international director of real clout. Peter Brook is routinely cited as the iconoclast who was so good that he had to leave England to find more suitable conditions elsewhere. You could imagine Donnellan, too, settling in Paris.

● *Le Cid* is at the Riverside Studios (0181-237 1111) until Feb 26



More than 200 actors tried for the part of Rodrigue in Declan Donnellan's *Le Cid*. William Nadytam landed it

## Second helping

IT ALL depends on the setting. Come across a sozzled raconteur propping up a bar, and he will have you edging towards the door. But put him on stage and he becomes an endearing companion, a compelling poet of the pints.

Eamon Morrissey's earlier one-hander, based on the viscous wit and wisdom of Irish writer, columnist and bar-room sage, Flann O'Brien (aka Myles na Gopaleen, real name Brian O'Nolan) pulled off just that trick, and has been entertaining audiences since 1974. His new play, although it weaves in much of the old material, is set 25 years later, and his character (an amalgam of O'Brien and his writ-



ings) is apparently institutionalised, older, sadder and more sober.

The bravado is still there, if watered down. Morrissey treats us to a rambling compilation of bromides on the dangers of grinding your teeth, the breeding habits of ducks, the importance of pockets as a mark of civilisation, drinking in the morning (a good thing) and atomic theory (if molecules transfer from one body to another, surely over the years you become part bicycle, and your bicycle becomes part you). It gets a bit repetitive after a while, although things pick up in the second half with a hilarious demonstration of how to maintain the public appearance of sobriety with the help of a pair of stout-proof trousers.

The secret of O'Brien's humour lies in his construction of bravura but sophisticated disquisitions from seemingly logical but really quite meaningless pieces of wisdom ("If you can't speak you can listen twice as well as a man who can", "Very few chain stores sell chains"). Repeated like mantras by Morrissey, they become staging posts to nowhere, or at least to a whimsical parallel world. A diverting evening, though little more than the sum of its hand-me-down parts.

NIGEL CLIFF

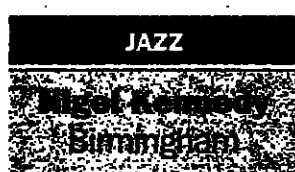
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THE TIMES

## A taste of things to come

A few years ago Nigel Kennedy gave a Midlands audience an early glimpse of the fruits of his obsession with Jimi Hendrix. Now, with a fully fledged Hendrix suite due to be released shortly, he returned to Ronnie Scott's in Birmingham, but with a very different format. A giant portrait of Duke Ellington forms part of the decor at this version of the Soho jazz institution. On this occasion it also served as a reminder that Kennedy has been mixing genres since the early 1980s, when he released an album combining Bartók and a thoughtful précis of Ellington's *Black, Brown and Beige* suite.

No one quite knew what to expect this time around. In the event the violinist was content to play more of a supporting role alongside Calix Clark, a Jamaican-born singer and guitarist based in Kennedy's adopted home of Malvern. Audiences on the Continent have had more opportunities to get the measure of Clark, who has been playing encores on



Kennedy's recent classical tour. Here, in contrast, his appearances have been confined to low-level dates in pubs. Informality was the keynote of a set devoted to his amiable folk-like tunes, all delivered in a light if unspectacular voice. Jazz it wasn't, but there was the same seat-of-the-pants mood to the interplay between a trio completed by double-bass player Rory McFarlane.

Swigging from a bottle of water as he joked with audience members near the stage, Kennedy was clearly in relaxed, bustling mode. At least one of Clark's tunes was so fresh off the page it did not even have a title. Some of the more reflective pieces, betraying the occasional hint of the blues, had a touch of Ted Hawkins's spare poetry about



Nigel Kennedy: happy to share the musical limelight

them. Although an entire programme of original material was bound to stretch him too thin, *Sin and Shame* and

*Touch of an Angel* left an unmistakable afterglow.

Having quipped at the outset that we were about to hear a little rockabilly, Kennedy did not over-extend himself in his solos. All the same it would have been fascinating to have heard how far the pieces had evolved by the third and final night of the residency.

Without the help of heavy amplification, he extracted molten guitar-like lines on *Tree of Life*, building simple figures to a forceful climax before allowing the final phrases to die away like the quietest of sighs. All in all, a tasty hors d'oeuvre; the main course is still to come.

CLIVE DAVIS

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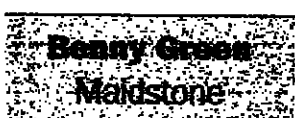
CHANGING TIMES

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## An eagle lands

VERY few pianists in jazz are developing at the same rate as Benny Green. Since leaving Ray Brown's mainstream trio he has worked in several contexts, from duos with his mentor, Oscar Peterson, to his own trio with Ben Wolfe and Karen Riggins. In 1997 he brought that trio to Britain, playing his own compositions, experimenting with variations in metre and developing his already formidable technique. He returned last year, in company with drummer Duffy Jackson, and his focus had shifted back to interpreting the standard repertoire.

His current tour finds him digging further into his explorations of standards. At first glance, the word muscular would not be the adjective that springs to mind to describe the slight figure of Green. But there is no other word to describe his keyboard attack. It has grown in confidence, power and aggression, and even when he works in the middle register with just one hand the force of his playing and of the thought behind it stand out.



The two British members of Green's trio, bassist Andrew Cleynert and drummer Steve Brown, are no mere passengers. In the clear, resonant setting of the Pizza Express jazz room, they played with no PA, and used the acoustic balance of the trio to feed ideas to one another. In a stomping version of *Don't Blame Me*, built around Cleynert's bass solo, Green's exuberance split over into handclaps between his piano phrases, and he alternated this with some tender unaccompanied ballad choruses on *My Heart Stood Still* and *When Your Lover Has Gone*. Green's former boss Ray Brown once said he wasn't sure when Green would "land" as a soloist, and find his own authentic voice. On the evidence of this tour, Green has "landed" in style.

ALYN SHIPTON

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Cast includes:  
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Wolfgang Gobbel  
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Alex Ingram  
Mark Padellaro







# When the scoundrels have to go

Parliament's job is scrutiny — not playing hunt the scapegoat

**I**mpach him. Resign. Such insistent demands by angry legislators are invariably disappointed. President Clinton's acquittal by the Senate and the Blair Government's brusque dismissal of the Foreign Affairs Committee's criticisms over the Sierra Leone affair show how the executive holds most of the cards. It is time to rethink conventional ideas of accountability.

The tortuous impeachment process in America is based directly on British experience, which speaks in the trial often cited. Indeed, Erskine May, the parliamentary rule-book, lays down how impeachment could, in theory, still occur here. The procedures and language are similar. The Lower House (of Representatives, or the Commons) draws up articles of impeachment for "high crimes and misdemeanours" and appoints managers to conduct a case before the Upper House (the Senate, or the Lords).

In the 17th and 18th centuries, impeachment was a means of attacking ministers of the Crown without confronting the monarch directly. The American founding fathers deliberately included the President. However, while American procedures have not changed in the subsequent two centuries, British practice almost immediately altered. Impeachments disappeared with the growth of Cabinet collective responsibility, as opposed to ministerial dependence on the Crown. Administrations could be removed, and often were in the 19th century, by successful votes of no confidence in the Commons.

The theory of ministerial accountability has become very slippery. There was never an idyllic period when politicians were men of honour and accepted responsibility for all the actions of their departments and resigned. The behaviour of Lloyd George and Rufus Isaacs in the Marconi shares scandal of 1912-13 was far worse than anything that Peter Mandelson did, yet they stayed and he went.

The Chifren Down case in 1954 is often cited as proof of earlier high standards but it is widely misunderstood. Sir Thomas Dugdale resigned as Agriculture Minister not because he took responsibility for what officials did, but because he had lost the confidence of fellow Tory MPs.

Subsequently, attempts have been made to distinguish between accountability and responsibility and between policy and administration. While a minister is accountable, in the sense of being publicly answerable, for everything done in a department, no one would argue that he or she should be held personally responsible for all actions by officials. But that does not help in the controversial case. A minister in trouble may have to explain the situation to MPs, but he usually tries to wriggle out of taking the blame.

Whether a minister stays or goes reflects the political pressures of the day, rather than an absolute constitutional doctrine. Most resignations have,

anyway, been because of personal actions rather than public conduct. Resignation hunting is the knee-jerk reaction of frustrated Opposition politicians and an excitable media.

The media has become more central to accountability than the Commons. Mr Mandelson spent 24 hours trying to stay in office by giving interviews but decided to resign when he believed he had lost the battle of the airwaves and the leader columns. Unfortunately, few politicians, or Prime Ministers, are willing to stand up to the Savonarolas of the *Daily Mail* and *The Sun*.

Yet the infrequency of resignations, particularly over policy, is also because governments believe their mandate is derived directly from the people. Having won office after an election, ministers argue that it is solely for voters to give their verdict. One of the strongest arguments against Mr Clinton's impeachment was that his Republican accusers were trying to overturn the result of the ballot box. What the President had done wrong was not sufficiently serious to justify reversing the result of the 1996 election.

This shift from representative to popular control entails a redefinition of accountability. As the Public Service Committee of MPs argued in July 1996: "Proper and rigorous scrutiny and accountability may be more important to Parliament's ability to correct error than forcing resignations."

The combined impact of the Nolan and Scott reports in 1995-96 was to put greater emphasis on accountability in terms of openness and disclosure. But there has always been a tension between two forms of accountability and the desire of ministers and officials to carry on business without too much public scrutiny. That conflict is again seen in current attempts in Whitehall to limit the extent of disclosure (the so-called harm test) in the forthcoming freedom of information legislation.

**T**he ultimate justification for the inquiry by the Foreign Affairs Committee into the Sierra Leone affair was to ensure such accountability to Parliament. The Government did itself no good by rubbishing the report immediately and arguing that it was unnecessary because of the (heavily sanitised) departmental inquiry by Sir Thomas Legg. However, it is questionable how far it is fair to criticise named officials who have no right of reply. This is also a threat to ministers, since civil servants may demand the right to dissociate themselves from their political masters. Similar issues arise now over the BSE inquiry which could be as politically explosive as the Scott report.

Instead of always trying to attach personal blame, and find scapegoats, the real focus should be on finding out what has happened and securing a full explanation. Throwing the scoundrels out is a job for the electorate — and Parliament's role is to provide voters with the information to do so.

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Peter Riddell



## A culture of corruption

The Clinton case was simply the latest manifestation of the new world order of bungs and backhanders

**T**here is a simple rule to apply to Bill Clinton: when he is down, he is about to come back up, and when he is up he is about to fall back down again. His whole political career, since he was first elected as Governor of Arkansas has been that of a robber Humpty Dumpty. He was first called the Comeback Kid when he lost the governorship and then won it back.

His moment of maximum danger is when he is up. Then he is likely to make one of the hubristic mistakes which have disfigured his career. The moment of danger for his opponents is when he is down: he is then as dangerous as a cornered animal. By this rule, the Democrats should view his acquittal by the Senate as a portent of trouble to come. I do not expect him to spend his last two years in the White House quietly improving his reputation in history. On the contrary, he is quite likely now to alienate a number of those who have supported him through thick and thin.

Even the Senate vote has been ambiguous. He was acquitted, perhaps wrongly, on what was certainly the wrong charge. As I have argued earlier, there are two dark themes which run through Clinton's career. One is his abuse of women: not one woman but a Don Giovanni list of 100, 200, whatever. I find no account of a single case in which he has treated the woman well. The other is the money — not his personal money, but the \$50 million to \$100 million he has raised in political funds to fight his campaigns for Governor and President.

Clinton's relationships with the suppliers of these huge funds, and his abuse of state funds in Arkansas, may indeed contain high crimes and misdemeanours. The funders have included Dan Lasater, the millionaire cocaine felon and bond dealer who was a close friend, Don Tyson, whose firm made the "profit" of \$100,000 for Hillary, and mysterious Chinese companies. The question is what these providers of funds were getting for their money.

There are also the kickbacks to campaign funds which were alleged to have been given by those given loans by the Arkansas Development and Finance Administration in the old days. Clinton signed off all the loans. If Kenneth Starr had concentrated on the money trail, he would have been investigating the serious public issues. By following the women, staggering though those stories are, he was trotting, like a bloodhound with double cataracts, after a red herring.

However, if Starr had followed the money trail, he would have embarrassed not just the Democrats, but the Republicans as well. There is no major American politician who has not taken campaign funds from people who wanted something in return. Doubtful funding happens even here, where campaigning is much less expensive. The largest bank in Arkansas, which funded Clinton in the 1980s, also helped to fund Bob Dole the Republican presidential candidate.

The American constitution has not proved strong enough to nail down the Clinton scandal; the constitution of the European Union is not strong enough to nail down the financial scandals of the Commission. Most Labour MPs, following their whips, voted against sanctioning the Commission for its irregularities.

Those who are amazed at Clinton's skills in beating the rap, should also feel amazement at Jacques Santer's skill in screening the errand and peccant from a just censure and removal at Strasbourg. They mislaid some 10 per cent of the Commission's budget. Clinton never mislaid anything like so large a sum.

No one has called Jacques Santer the Comeback Kid, nor Edith Cresson the Comeback Queen of Europe, though she seems to bounce unscathed from one failure to another. What countries are even relatively free from corruption? Not France, where the most recently revealed Mitterrand scandal seems to have had a price tag of \$2.5 billion; the whole Arkansas Finance and Development Administration amounted to only \$700 million, though one has to admit that Arkansas is smaller than France. Not Ireland or Belgium, small European countries with big financial scandals.

Not Britain. We bury our biggest financial scandals for a generation at a time, leaving them to be disinterred lovingly by historians after 30 years have past. The Lloyd's catastrophe, which ruined 20,000 families, has never been adequately investigated. Maxwell's close associates are still walking the streets, the picture of health and good humour. By and large in Britain as in France, Europe has a secretive culture when it comes to our own scandals. At least in America things are somewhat more open. We actually now know about 10 per cent, perhaps 20 per cent of the things Bill Clinton got up to.

The world has the worry that corruption is now spreading throughout politics. Clinton may have set a bad example, but he is not alone. One can almost say that corruption has now become the global norm.



William Rees-Mogg

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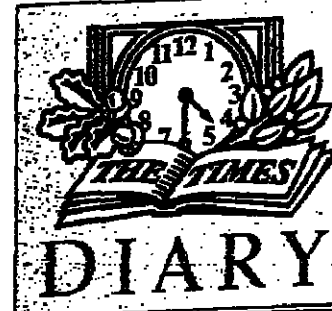
No doubt wealthy advanced economies can support the marginal cost of corruption, but weaker economies cannot. Russia has been looted and ruined. The Asian depression of 1998 was partly caused by corruption; Indonesia has been ruined by it. Even the two countries with the largest populations, India and China, see corruption as a major economic handicap. Several sub-Saharan African countries have also been ruined by criminal dictators, such as Bokassa or Mobutu, who shifted much of the national wealth to their own Swiss bank accounts. In these countries children die of malnutrition because of past corruption.

**C**orruption does ruin some countries, but it destroys public trust in all of them. This is not a party matter. John Major's government gave glib assurances about BSE, which proved unjustified. The distrust resulting from these assurances, which put the supposed welfare of farming ahead of public health, has undermined trust in Tony Blair's very similar assurances about genetically modified food. No one thinks that money passed hands in either case. The farmers did not contribute except trivially, to Conservative funds: I do not imagine Monsanto has contributed to Labour funds, but it has certainly lobbied in favour of its products.

People suspect that there is a culture of lobbyism and cronyism, of spin and sympathy, an exercise in the exchange of the favours of power, which accounts for too many public decisions. This damages business, which has its own mistrust to face. Who now trusts the tobacco companies? Or the pharmaceutical companies? Or big oil? Or offshore arms contractors? Corruption now even damages sport, with allegations of drugs, bungs, bets and the case of the Olympic committee.

In late 18th-century and early 19th-century Britain, honourable people, many of them evangelical Christians, were outraged by sinners and corruption, and successfully rooted them out of British public life. For more than a century, the British even ran their huge empire without bribes. Now there is a new and global wave of corruption. We need a new sense of outrage, which is lacking in the US Senate, in the European Parliament, and lacking, alas, in Downing Street itself.

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## Nimby blues

**SIR ALAN** and Lady Walters have become the victims of free enterprise. Despite opposition from Baroness Thatcher's monetarist adviser and his wife, Westminster is to allow David Emil, patron of Manhattan's Rainbow Room, to open for business round the corner from their Mayfair residence.

The New Yorker has hired David Rockwell to spend £3 million on premises in Berkeley Street which will entertain up to 473 customers, with two restaurants, bars and a dancefloor until 3am.

Lady Walters is frustrated that she and her neighbours failed to discourage Westminster's enthusiasm for deregulation. "It's part of the Soho-isation of Mayfair," she tells me. "One would just hope people will be decorous." Sir A's 1974 *Noise and Prices* might now need to be revised.

●THE newly installed Bishop of Southwell, the Venerable George Cassidy, nearly binned the job offer because he thought it was yet another piece of dreary junk mail from English Heritage.

## Oh, Wuther!

THAT artistic outpost in the North, the West Yorkshire Playhouse, has confused the area's most acclaimed literary daughters. The theatre sent leaflets of its forthcoming production of *Wuthering Heights* to 1,000



subscribers, featuring a picture of Charlotte rather than Emily Brontë. The Playhouse's excuse? "If you look at a picture of the three sisters (above), they are identical."

●CAN Mark Seddon possibly be causing trouble for Peter Mandelson, his colleague on the NEC? His Tribune this weekend quotes the inventor of new Labour in 1970: "Comrades, as a political party committed to socialist principles, we must fight under the banner of these principles. We can either go stronger to play our part in the fight for a programme of socialism, or we can descend into absurdity."

## Trading up

THE Duke and Duchess of Devonshire plan to expand. They wish to open a branch of their charming farm shop at Chatsworth in London. On offer will be meat from the Derbyshire estate and delicacies such as Her Grace's fruit cake. "Many farmers are dealing with the devastation of the beef industry by doing B&B," a friend of the couple tells me. "But they cannot possibly do that at Chatsworth."



●LADY Meyer's bad hair day. When she prepares to play hostess for Sir Christopher, her husband, at the British Embassy in Washington, she is almost defeated by FCO parsimony: "I switch on my hair-dryer and the lights dim."

## Mass protest

ORGAN wars at Mayfair's Farm Street Church. During Latin Mass at Britain's grandest Roman Catholic establishment, where regulars include the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, Sir Alec Guinness and King Juan Carlos, Father Vincent Hawe's attempts to show the Host at the second Agnus Dei were twice defeated by crashing chords from the organ loft.

When he finally got a chance to gain his audience's full attention, the Jesuit priest commented noisily: "And for the third time." Fur coats in the pew were shocked as much by his words as his use of English.

●THE next lecture at London's Arab Research Centre is entitled: "The Palestinian Issue: the difficulty of moving forward or backward."

JASPER GERARD

## Alcoholism, the Russians understand. This must be a really big drinker, even worse than me, they think with grudging reverence

**I** can be extremely difficult to get hold of my friend Roma. At weekends he is what is called a *Tamodar*, a Georgian word meaning toasmaster. He turns up at weddings just after the "I do" bit but before everybody sits down to dinner (Russian weddings are round-the-table events), performs a welcoming ceremony which involves salt and vodka and starts entertaining people. He tells jokes, makes toast and organises games for about seven hours as the guests get drunker and drunker and drunker.

Roma never touches a drop. "I tell them I'm a recovering alcoholic," he says. This is true. Drinking Russians are deeply suspicious of a sign that the sober person holds them in contempt. "Don't you respect

me?" they will ask until you cave in and start drinking vodka shots with them. Alcoholism, on the other hand, they understand. This must be a really big drinker, even worse than me, they think with grudging reverence.

Roma's wedding guests number anywhere between 20 and 300 but the price is not pegged to the quantity of revelers. Before the beginning of the economic crisis in August he would turn down offers of \$150 (£93) for his services but now he is forced to *Tamodar* for \$50 or less. When things are getting boring he chooses someone who looks game and starts to lay into them, to the great glee (he claims) of the other guests. He insists that he is not the equivalent of an English best man because Russian grooms have a best man as well.

Roma has a wedding every

single Saturday, all year round, though he performs under various different pseudonyms so as not to have to pay protection to the *Tamodar* mafia. His work tends to begin around 2pm, just giving him time to fit in a morning of editing before he has to be off. For Roma is also the producer/presenter of a hugely popular late-night television programme aimed at new-rich Russian men. In fact I first met him at a St Andrew's Day dinner in a Moscow hotel. He was dashing about with a camera crew asking the men what they were wearing under their kilts.

Alone, Roma has to prepare four, five-minute slots per week, which would be quite enough for

any man but he also has to do all his own research and tape editing and he is allowed to use the camera for only one day a week. This job earns him about \$30 a month. In the early evening, if he is not still at work, Roma goes home to be with his wife and baby son. "I am a real peasant," he says. "I can't let my wife

work." He was brought up to believe that a man should support his family, and support his family he will. But that is not to say that he is idle of an evening. Most days a senior Russian general will call and invite Roma round to give him piano and accordion lessons for \$5 an hour. The general is convinced that Luzhkov will be the next Presi-

dent of Russia and Roma insists that he is a man who would know. But if the general does not request the pleasure of Roma's presence, Roma gets down to some real work. He writes freelance articles for a huge collection of founding magazines, all of whose readerships have plummeted since the crisis. "I'm a journalist at heart. Not so much a journalist but an engineer of human misery," he laughs, playing with an official Soviet title.

Although, in fact, by education Roma is a musician and a graduate of an extremely prestigious music school, the Gnessin Institute, which produced the virtuoso pianist Evgeny Kissin. Roma is quite often booked to play his accordion or the keyboards for advertising jingles or for inde-

pendent recording artists who are trying to produce their CDs on the cheap. He insists he is not alone in having more than five jobs — he knows hundreds of doctors and musicians who moonlight as taxi drivers and at least one circus performer who in the evenings has a job for an escort agency delivering prostitutes to mainly foreign clients.

Even with his nightmarishly hectic schedule, Roma is barely holding things together financially, for he loathes business and refuses to get involved in the buying or selling of anything except the things he can offer himself. As his country's economy collapses around him he is attempting to stay true to the things he loves. And the amazing thing about Roma is that he is 25 years old.

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Anna Blundy







## BALKAN BRINKSMANSHIP

Serbs and Kosovans have five days to do a deal

Madeleine Albright's message yesterday to President Milutinovic of Serbia could not have been blunter. Unless the Serbs begin serious business at the Kosovo peace talks, they face Nato air strikes. Her exasperation, shared by all the Contact Group members, is fully justified. For a full week, wasting time and international effort, the Serb delegation has attempted to use the Paris conference for propaganda. It has refused serious consideration of the framework agreement and its annexes and has tabled no amendments, supposedly on the grounds that it is awaiting instructions. Instead the Serbs have demanded that both sides first sign an agreement guaranteeing Yugoslavia's territorial integrity: this is a precondition that they know is unacceptable to the secessionist Kosovo Albanians.

Reluctantly, the Contact Group has agreed to another five days of talks. But already the velvet gloves of diplomacy are being set aside. Ms Albright told Mr Milutinovic that if the Serbs are the cause of a breakdown, America was determined to go ahead with the air strikes already authorised by Nato. Her warning has been usefully reinforced by President Clinton's announcement that America was ready to contribute up to 4,000 ground troops to a Nato force of 30,000 that would police an eventual deal. Serbia can no longer count on the West's reluctance to commit its forces to intervening — either as peacekeepers or, if necessary, to confront Serb troops.

Britain and France, co-chairing the meetings, have been less explicit in public but no less determined to end the Rambouillet charade. In this they have been supported by the Russians, who know that unless they can produce concessions from Belgrade they have no hope of preventing Western air strikes. Moscow has long lost patience with President Milosevic: its support for Belgrade has little to do with any Slavic feeling and

everything to do with its desperate attempt to forestall Nato military hegemony in the Balkans.

Ms Albright has succeeded at least in forcing the two sides to meet face-to-face. But this does not signify much. Both want to give an impression of negotiating in good faith; neither has any intention of doing so. The sticking point is the military annex to the framework agreement. This calls on the Serbs to withdraw their troops, rein in their special forces and accept the deployment of foreign soldiers.

Mr Milosevic has repeatedly demonstrated the mendaciousness of past such undertakings: he seems to think that only the threat of further massacres will prevent an armed uprising by the entire Albanian population. The annex also calls on fighters of the Kosovo Liberation Army to lay down their arms and return to their villages. Few of the monitors in the field expect them to do any such thing. Indeed, arms are still pouring across the Albanian border; youthful volunteers are swelling the KLA's ranks; and secure bases are being constructed in the mountains secure from both Serb or Nato attack.

Tony Blair made clear at the weekend that the West has no intention of sending Nato troops to Kosovo unless and until a political agreement is in place. The message is directed at the KLA. Nato is not the KLA air force, nor are Western troops available to secure a free hand for secessionists. The military compromises demanded by the proposed framework agreement will only be possible if the Contact Group is uncompromising with both sides.

Prospects for success at Rambouillet are poor. The Serbs are still not reconciled to any meaningful autonomy; the Albanians are determined to fight for immediate independence. They have five days to draw back from the brink.

## I HAVE A THEME

A Tory agenda is discernible across the Atlantic

William Hague took a risk in venturing across the Atlantic at the point when the impeachment debate reached its denouement. He seemed only to be confirming his reputation for lucklessness by seeking out American politicians at a time when their attentions were inevitably elsewhere. But if there was a damp squib in Washington this week, it was the climax of the President's trial, not Mr Hague's visit. The Conservative leader may not have dominated television screens stateside, but he did find himself on the same wavelength as some of the continent's most successful centre-right politicians.

The elixir of political success does not always travel well. But there are signs that Mr Hague has been emboldened by his experiences to develop new themes for a more modern conservatism. On arrival he explained that he had come to exchange ideas, not just pillage them. But he conceded that the United States, with federal, state and city governments, was a political laboratory on a scale unmatched anywhere else. That observation was an indication of a growing turn towards decentralisation. The promotion of diversity in administration as a good in itself, and a competitive goad to the improvement of services, is becoming a Hague theme.

The Conservatives displayed an indifference towards local government which hardened into distaste during the Thatcher and Major years. It will take some time before memories of that hostility fades. But the enthusiasm with which Mr Hague applauded the effects of decentralisation on New York schools was an earnest of intent.

His meeting with George W. Bush Jr, the Governor of Texas, was intended to showcase the salesman for a more compassionate conservatism. Mr Hague

hoped to learn from the Governor the trick of trumping a centrist opponent. British and Texan notions of compassion do not always overlap. Enthusiasm for state execution is unlikely to be interpreted in the United Kingdom as a kinder, gentler politics, but it is a precondition of power in the Deep South. Yet, despite those divergences, Mr Hague did appear to have been strengthened in some of his convictions after meeting Mr Bush. The Tory leader's desire to create a more inclusive party, by challenging traditional prejudices and appealing to constituencies hitherto neglected, reflects the Bush agenda of raiding for votes in enemy territory, especially among ethnic minorities.

Mr Bush is not the only American on the Right who has outflanked the Left. The New York mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, has been under siege this week following the death of an unarmed black man at the hands of his police officers. The tragedy has distracted American attention from the real improvement in crime rates and welfare rolls during Mr Giuliani's tenure. But Mr Hague was attentive to the underlying trends in the city, and showed a willingness to think afresh on policing, emphasising the need for a step change in the management structures of law enforcement agencies if policies such as "zero tolerance" were to be anything more than rhetorical flourishes. Impatient Conservatives sometimes fear that, shorn of his rhetorical flourishes, Mr Hague has still to prove himself.

There is still a considerable distance to travel before he inspires a feeling of easy confidence in his capacity to govern. But his journey to America, and his exploration of new political territory, are steps in the right direction.

## A SPORTING CHANCE

A spirit of fair play is the soul of football

The best measure of Arsenal's grand sporting gesture at the end of their match with Sheffield United is to consider how football would stand if that *beau geste* had never been made. Football has often fallen foul of fair play in recent years. Cut-throat commercialism and lucrative win bonuses have shouldered good sportsmanship off the pitch. And Saturday's FA cup match might have descended into on-pitch chaos and vituperative post-mortems after Arsenal's new Nigerian player, Nwankwo Kanu, intercepted a ball that was being returned to the opposition after it had been kicked out of play following an injury to an opponent.

Turning it across the goalmouth, Mr Kanu presented a teammate with the opportunity to take an easy goal. But tempers were soothed by Arsenal's manager Arsène Wenger. Taking an unprecedented decision, this Frenchman reminded the English inventors of football of the honourable principles underlying their sport by offering United a replay. "It wasn't right to win that way," he said.

Arsenal has among the worst disciplinary record of any premier league football team. Seven players have been sent off this season alone. So Mr Wenger's decision does much to redress the less than perfect reputation of his club. But more than this, in the same week in which the MCC has

decided to enshrine a phrase about the "spirit of the game" in cricketing laws, he has made the sort of gentlemanly gesture which helps to reinstate fair play at the heart of sporting endeavour. In a culture of intimidation of referees, of gamesmanship and professional fouls, old-fashioned rectitude makes a rare lap of honour.

The Football Association, which has won a dithering reputation in recent years, gave its support to Mr Wenger with unusual alacrity. There are those who will cavil that in doing so it has undermined the authority of adjudicating officials in real time; that the referee's decision will no longer be regarded as unquestionably final now that it has once been overturned. There is a risk that the "game could be exposed to unscrupulous copycat claims in the future. But the convention that, after injury, the ball should be returned to the fouled player's goalkeeper is long held and conciliatory. The FA was right to support it, even if not officially written into the rules. And, although it is unlikely that a replay could have been forced, once Arsenal had called for one it was appropriate to accept. The gate money taken at the annulled match should be given to charitable causes. Football has won an opportunity to show that it values a spirit of sportsmanship more highly than success alone. It should make the most of it.

## UK's obligation to intervene abroad

From Mr Edmund Cairns

Sir, Simon Jenkins (February 10) takes issue with my article in the *Journal, Renewal*, which combines praise for where the Government has firmly defended human rights with encouragement for it to do rather more so. More importantly, he criticises the Government on Kosovo for doing rather too much. "All this," he mocks, "[is] because murders were committed by paramilitary gangs operating entirely within the borders of a sovereign state."

Whether or not the outside world has any business in preventing such murders — in Sudan as much as Kosovo — is the fundamental disagreement. On the one hand, some welcome the development of international law over more than 50 years, which now holds that some actions by states, murder for instance, are so wrong that they violate universal human rights, and place some obligation on other states to do what they can to prevent them. This view leads to the court case in London this week over crimes committed in Belarus, as well as attempts to end the killing in Kosovo.

Others hold the view that whatever a state does is its business alone. The choice between those views is quite a basic moral one — a belief in universal rights or not. But even if most of us hold that belief, it prompts the question of how best we, as outsiders, can help.

Working with those inside a country seeking peace and human rights is perhaps a fundamental. But it does not mean that there are no times when outside troops are required to protect civilians from the bullets of their brutal governments — or indeed rebels.

If this is so, Mr Jenkins suggests satirically, "Sandline International and its ilk" will have to do it. I hope not. Last year's Strategic Defence Review suggested that such operations would become more common for Britain's more formal armed forces. Where the UK can make a useful contribution, with others, in Kosovo and elsewhere, it should.

Sincerely,  
EDMUND CAIRNS,  
Walnut Cottage,  
32 High Street, Haddenham,  
Buckinghamshire HP17 8ER.  
ecairns@btinternet.com

From Mr J. E. Humphrey

Sir, Do not the tortuous Kosovo strivings add weight to the opinion that there is a fundamental and extravagant unreason in the supposition that, through the agency of the United Nations, Nato or otherwise, we have a right or duty to intervene in civil wars or like upheavals abroad?

Is it not arrogant to assume that our ideas for a solution are welcome imports for peoples with centuries of different culture and history behind them? Is there not an impracticability in committing ground forces to operations among a populace at loggerheads with itself and in unfamiliar terrain, where our troops would have little way of knowing (until first shot at) who was friend and who was foe? And does not that very impracticability result inevitably in prevarications, frustrations, bluff, deadlines, "final" warnings which are not final and, ultimately, perhaps, in inconclusive assaults with explosives, carrying more peril to innocent civilians than to the warring factions?

Does it not need some re-thinking? Yours faithfully,  
J. E. HUMPHREY,  
9 Offington Gardens,  
Worthing, West Sussex BN14 9AT.  
February 12.

From Mr David Damant

Sir, The present Foreign Secretary may perhaps learn a lesson from the behaviour of a former Foreign Secretary at a meeting held at the Foreign Office on May 25, 1913:

The delegates of Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro and Turkey, somewhat sheepish in their frock coats, were ranged one by one upon the carpet. Sir Edward Grey advanced towards them and fixed them with his eagle eye; he pointed towards them with an outstretched and imperative finger: he summoned to his assistance the total resources of his Wykehamist French. "Ou signer," he shouted at them, "ou partir!" The Treaty of London was signed between Turkey and the Balkan states on May 30. [From *Lord Carnock*, by Sir Harold Nicolson.]

The lesson is, however, that only a month later the second Balkan war broke out, between Bulgaria and Serbia.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID DAMANT,  
Agar House,  
12 Agar Street, WC2N 4HN.  
February 12.

## God and judgment

From Mr Robert Wilson

Sir, I would prefer to be judged by Canon John Halliburton's loving, forgiving God as opposed to a cruel and vindictive one (letter, February 5). I'm just delighted by a leading churchman's belief that, come Judgment Day, we might be given a choice.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT WILSON,  
7 Heron Drive, Stanstead Abbots,  
Hertfordshire SG12 8TU.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## New Labour and dangers that are not so new

From Mr David W. Faull

Sir, Very occasionally, perhaps once in every 25 years, there appears in the press an article which is seminal, and that written by Lord Belfoff (February 9; letters, February 11 and 12) is one. He may have exaggerated his case, but the general thrust was something that has needed to be said for a long time. This is a dangerous government and you now hear people saying this.

The Government's policies in the Middle East and Ireland have failed, its social policies are incoherent and unjust, it has attacked pensions and reduced the value of people's savings at a time when it alleges that it wishes people to be more self-reliant in providing for themselves.

It is forcing the people down the road to a single currency, carefully not explaining the implications for ordinary people. Its transport policies are ill-conceived and simply designed to raise revenue under the guise of environmental improvement, but in reality increasingly fragmenting society by making travel too expensive.

Financial policies continue the unfair and unjust drift to indirect taxes instead of lowering them and raising direct taxes — again undermining social cohesion. Overall, of course, taxes could and should be lowered.

Much more seriously, Parliament is being treated with scant respect, the Union is undermined and the second chamber is destroyed (not reformed), with no one knowing what will

replace it. The Blairs are presented as the First Family, thus undermining the Royal Family. Power moves steadily into the hands of a very few.

If one thought that any of this was directed towards creating a more just, equitable and God-fearing society one might feel one should accept it. But it is not, and we shall be destroyed if we do not wake up to it.

Yours faithfully,  
D. W. FAULL,  
Laniglos House,  
Saint Thomas Street,  
Wells, Somerset BA5 1UZ.  
February 11.

From Lord Grenfell

Sir, As a peer taking the Labour whip, married to a German whose father was hanged by the Nazis in 1944 for his anti-Nazi plotting, I am doubly outraged by Lord Belfoff's article. To draw such a travesty of a parallel between Tony Blair's prime minister-ship and the unsurpassed horror of Hitler's dictatorship is totally unworthy of an historian of Lord Belfoff's note.

The fact that Lord Belfoff is free to express such flawed and offensive arguments in the public prints is evidence enough that the parallel he draws is nonsensical.

Yours sincerely,  
JULIAN GRENFELL,  
House of Lords,  
February 9.

From Councillor A. G. D. Wynne

Sir, In February 1980 Winston Churchill published the Conservative election manifesto containing the following: "Conservatives believe in the Constitution as a safeguard of liberty. Socialists believe that it should be used for Party ends. Without mandate and without reason they have reduced the powers of the House of Lords and taken the country a long way towards single chamber government. By over-centralisation of power they have gravely weakened our system of democratic local government."

Half a century on, Max Belfoff has expertly examined the threat implicit in the new Labour programme. How little has changed.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW WYNNE,  
1 Compton Park,  
Wolverhampton WV3 9DU.  
February 14.

From Mr Andrew Currie

Sir, During the 1980s a defeated and demoralised Left regularly drew comparisons between Mrs Thatcher, Hitler and the Third Reich. It was silly then and it's silly now and, as Mr Richard Wood pointed out (letters, February 11), more down to frustration than historical analysis.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW CURRIE,  
115 Northside Clapham Common,  
London SW4 9SW.  
February 12.

## The Monty style

From Viscount Montgomery of Alamein

Sir, My father visited Manchester Grammar School on October 10, 1945 (Mr Michael Goldman's letter, February 3). He was visiting Manchester to receive the freedom of the city, and at the same time had been invited by the High Master to address the school.

The High Master was Dr Eric James, later Lord James of Rusholme, who had previously been a master at Winchester where I had the very good fortune to be taught by him, and where he had met my father.

Eric James was an inspired teacher and great educationalist, and my father would have been delighted to respond to his invitation to address a school with such a fine reputation as Manchester Grammar School.

Yours faithfully,  
MONTGOMERY  
House of Lords,  
February 10.

From Lady James of Rusholme

Sir, Monty's visit to Manchester Grammar School, in the autumn of 1945, was at the invitation of my late husband, the then High Master, who had taught Monty's son at Winchester during the war years and had got to know him when he came to visit his son.

Monty would stay a night with the Headmaster, Spencer Leeson, and liked to have a discussion party in the evening (he was not without a trace of vanity — he once asked Mrs Leeson what she had done with a photograph of him which was not in its usual place).

I don't know why Monty forgot the visit. He certainly did not forget my husband, as we had a Christmas card every year till he died. It was always the first to arrive.

Yours sincerely,  
CORDELIA JAMES,  
Penhill Cottage,  
West Witton, Leyburn,  
North Yorkshire DL8 4LP.  
February 3.

From Sir Peter Kemp

Sir, During the war I was a pupil at Amesbury School in Hindhead which the then General Montgomery used as his home when he wasn't chasing the Germans and Italians.

One day he attended the school boxing finals, there to witness small boys beating other small boys into pulp. He duly presented the prizes. Having done that he turned to the loser most covered in blood and took off his own wristwatch and gave it to him.

In the minds of us small boys there was of course no comparison between some cup you couldn't hang on to, and the wristwatch, no doubt still dirty with desert sand, that had belonged to the great man.

I often wonder what the moral of the story is.

Yours etc,  
PETER KEMP,  
2 Longdon Avenue, SE26 6QJ.  
February 8.

## Golden years

From Mr Edward Black

Sir, I would contend that the onset of middle age can be determined with some precision (letters, January 5, 12, 19, 26 and 28; February 1 and 8). It occurs at the point where irritation at those who are wont to observe that standards in a certain matter were higher 25 years ago is replaced by a tendency to observe that the skills shown by practitioners of certain arts, sciences or sports are not what they were a quarter century past.

Yours truly,  
EDWARD B. BLACK,  
32 Hampstead Way, NW11 7JL.  
February 9.

## Monitoring QCs

From Mr Andrew Dismore, MP for Hendon (Labour)

Sir, Sir John Lea suggests (letter, February 9) that there is as strong a need for a system to keep "MPs up to scratch" after they are appointed, as there is for QCs. He apparently forgets that MPs are elected, not appointed — a fundamental distinction.

Amongst others, there are two crucial differences between the two jobs. QCs are appointed from second-hand information based on secret references never made available either to applicants or the public. MPs are elected through an open, competitive procedure called the general election.

QCs are appointed for life, with no compulsory retirement age or reappraisal, over what could be decades of practice after appointment. MPs are answerable to their constituents, who every four to five years can re-elect or reject their MP.

If the QC system is to survive, then it must become more open in its ap-

pointment arrangements, more accountable to the consumer, and cease to be a drain on the public purse. QCs should be subject to appraisal from time to time, required to undergo continuing education in their chosen specialities and subject to a compulsory retirement age.

If judges have to hang up their wigs at 70, why not QCs?

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW DISMORE,  
House of Commons.

From Mr Benedict Birnberg

Sir, Whilst the Lord Chancellor is looking at the selection process for QCs and who pays for it, he would do well to ponder whether this time-honoured but self-serving designation has any useful place in a modernised justice system.

Yours faithfully,  
BENEDICT BIRNBERG,  
B. M. Birnberg & Co (solicitors),  
103 Borough High Street, SE1 1NN.  
February 11.

## Visa delays

From Mrs E. Wheeler

Sir, Mr Andrew Nicol, Chair of the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (letter, February 9), writes of the difficulties being caused to the international business community by the virtual shutdown of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate of the Home Office (IND). This is only one aspect of the chaos it is creating.

Applications for visas for "foreign" spouses of British citizens have to be submitted with many original documents, including the passport of the British citizen. The IND advises that it is unlikely that applications will be processed in less than eight months.

The result is that the British spouse

is effectively deprived of the freedom to travel abroad — even to conduct business — and the spouse has become virtually an illegal immigrant, with no means of identification. Should an emergency create the need to travel, the applicants might be able to retrieve their passports seven days after applying for them and having queued at Croydon. Such action would put the visa application at the back of the queue.

Is it lawful to treat people in this way?

Yours faithfully,  
E. WHEELER,  
The Old Bakehouse,  
Minster Lovell,  
Oxfordshire OX8 5RN.  
dwheeler@compuserve.com  
February 11.

## Bug alert

From Mr Brian Tomlinson

Sir, The Millennium Bug really works. Today, the first of a set of annual alarms on my computer went off. When I cancelled it, it promptly recycled endlessly from 9 Feb 99 to 9 Feb 1900, requiring me to cancel each one as it came up. I could not get at the parent program to stop it.

It was not difficult to recover and delete all alarms from the program, but had it been some kind of automatic, unattended system . . . ?

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN TOMLINSON,  
56 Hermitage Court, E1 9PW.  
brian.tomlinson@freuk.com  
February 9.

## Zinoviev Letter

From Mr Robin Bruce Lockhart

Sir, Although I do not quarrel with the conclusion by Ms Gill Bennett, chief historian at the Foreign Office, that the Secret Intelligence Service played no part in forging the Zinoviev Letter (report, February 4), I believe that it is wrong to attribute the forgery to White Russians living in Latvia.

There can be no doubt that it was organised by Sidney Reilly, a British spy, assisted by Vladimir Orlov, an ex-Cheka officer who had fled to Berlin from Russia.

Reilly's responsibility is proven by writings of his contained among papers which I have sent to the Hoover Institute. It was confirmed by my late father, Sir Robert Bruce Lockhart, the British diplomat sent to Moscow by Lloyd George in September 1918 to work for the downfall of Lenin and imprisoned there for about a month.

It was further confirmed by Reilly's associates in MIIC (forerunner of MI6) and MIS; by a Russian publication in 1966 (the year that the Foreign Office announced that its file on the

## An eye on the past

From Mr N. J. Thompson

Sir, Congratulations to the scientists from Indiana State University who have discovered that some birds sleep at night with one eye open (report, February 4). Sadly they are late with this revelation. A glance at *The Prologue to The Canterbury Tales* will show that, in about 1386, Chaucer wrote (Nevill Coghill's translation): "And the small fowl are making melody That sleep away the night with open eye."

Yours faithfully,  
NEIL J. THOMPSON,  
Hurdley Hall, Hurdley,  
Churchstoke, Powys SY15 6DY.  
February 4.

Zinoviev Letter had gone missing) which quoted Reilly's admission of his role to a Soviet agent provocateur; and by a Soviet KGB officer in 1988, when I visited the USSR for the 70th anniversary of my father's release from the Kremlin.

Sidney Reilly worked for our Secret Intelligence Service right up to his "disappearance" into Russia in 1924; but he was also very much of an independent operator, plotting to establish Savinkoff in place of Lenin. He did not intend to help the Conservatives but simply to arouse anti-Communist feeling in the UK.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN BRUCE LOCKHART  
(Author, *Age of Spies*, Hodder and Stoughton, 1967),  
37 Adelaide Crescent, Hove BN3 2JL.  
February 4.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

051 77 47 47





## COURT CIRCULAR

## THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

February 14: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this

evening attended a Gala Performance to celebrate the reopening of Wimbledon Theatre, the Broadway, Wimbledon, London.

## Birthdays today

Mr John Adams, composer, 52; Mr Clive Aslet, Editor, Country Life, 44; Sir Nicholas Bayne, former diplomat, 62; Sir Harold Beley, former diplomat, 90; Miss Claire Bloom, actress, 66; Mr Tony Bloom, former deputy chairman, Skeneley, 60; the Earl of Carlisle, 50; Mr Dan Crompton, former Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire, 58; Mrs Chloe Davis, former senior information officer, National Citizens Advice Bureau Council, 90; Sir Maurice Drake, former High Court judge, 76; Mr Frank Dring, former director, Edinburgh International Festival, 72; the Countess of Dysart, 85; Mr Paul Ferris, author, 70; Mr Gerald Harper, actor and broadcaster, 70; Professor Andrew Miller, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Stirling University, 63; Sir Richard O'Brien, former chairman, Manpower Services Commission, 79; Mr C.F. Payne, former Chief Constable, Cleveland, 69; Sir William Reid, former Ambassador, 68; Miss Jane Seymour, actress, 48; Miss Clare Shaw, Secretary of State for International Development, 53; Mr P.J. Squire, former Headmaster, Bedford Modern School, 62; Sir Adrian Swire, former chairman, John Swire and Sons, 67; Lord Justice Ward, 61.

## Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Pedro Mendez de Avila, novelist, Avila, Spain, 1939; Galileo Galilei, mathematician and astronomer, Pisa, 1564; Michael Praetorius, composer, Kneuberg, Germany, 1571 (he died on this day, Wolfenbützel, 1621); King Louis XV of France, reigned 1715-74, Versailles, 1710; Jeremy Bentham, Utilitarian philosopher, London, 1748; Alfred North Whitehead, philosopher, Ramsgate, 1861; Sir Halford John Mackinder, geographer, 3rd Earl of Sandwich, 1861; Sir Benet Fletcher, architect and architectural historian, London, 1866; Sir Ernest Shackleton, Antarctic explorer, Kilkeel, Co. Clare, 1874; John Barrymore, actor, Philadelphia, 1882; H.M. Burton, cartoonist, Sutton Forest, New South Wales, 1887; Graham Hill, racing driver, London, 1929.

DEATHS: Henry Deane, Archbishop of Canterbury 1501-03, London, 1503; Jan Swammerdam, entomologist, Amsterdam, 1680; Anthony Ashley Cooper, 3rd Earl of Shaftesbury, writer, Naples, 1713; Gotthold Lessing, dramatist, Braunschweig, Germany, 1781; Henry Hunt, political reformer, Alford, Hampshire, 1835; Mikhail Glinka, composer, Berlin, 1857; Nicholas Winton, 1st Baron Winton, 1890-65, London, 1985; Alexander Borodin, composer, St Petersburg, 1887; Lew Wallace, American Civil War general and author of

## Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, patron, will attend the Air League's 90th anniversary dinner at the Mansion House, London EC2, at 7.15. The Princess Royal, patron, the Butler Trust, will visit HM Prison Castle Huntly, Longforgan, near Dundee, at 10.30; will attend the Scottish Equestrian Association's Scottish Equestrian Gathering and Young Achievers Day at the Glencroft Hotel, Auchtermuchty, at 1.00; and as patron, Scottish Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, will open the Clackmannan District Citizens Advice Bureau, 47 Drysdale Street, Alloa, Clackmannanshire, at 3.35.

## Ball

Oxford Union The Austrian Ambassador and Dr Nowotny were the guests of honour at an Oxford Union Society ball held on Saturday at the Union Society, Mr Theodore Mills, president of the Oxford Union, was the host. General Sir Hugh Beach was among those present.

## Service dinners

HMS Collingwood Commander Paul Morris presided at a ladies night dinner held on Saturday in R10-HMS Collingwood. Mrs Steve White also spoke.

## RAF HQ Nave

Air Commodore Phillip Roper, Deputy United Kingdom Military Representative at Nato Headquarters, and RAF Officers, serving and retired, in Brussels, were the hosts at a Valentine's ladies guest night dinner held on Saturday at the Prime Albert Military Club.

Wing Commander John Boyd presided and Group Captain Clive Cooper also spoke. The Belgian Air Force Band played a welcome to the guest who included Mr Leslie Beech, Royal Air Force Association.

## FFDC

Mr Neil Telling, President of the Federation of Plastering and Drywall Contractors, and Mr Ernest Fignin, Master of the Plasterers' Company have jointly presented the Plasterers' Trophy awards to the following:

1998 Plasterers Trophy, the Humber Silver Salver for Solid Plastering and the London and South East Regional award, Windsor Castle, Berkshire, to A.G. Joy & Son, Diss, Norfolk.

Humber Silver Salver for Fibrous Plaster, British Library, London, to Riverside Mountings, Greatworth, Hertfordshire.

Certificate of Merit for Decorative Fibrous Plaster, Aspinall's Club, London, to Clark & Fenn, Middlesbrough.

Northern Regional award, Debenhams Store, White Rose Centre, Leeds, to Trella Architectural Mountings, Sheffield.

Scottish Regional award, Edinburgh Castle, to Cliveden Conservation Workshop, Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Special London and South East Regional award, Windsor Castle, to St Blaise, Dorchester.

Special London and South East Regional award, Windsor Castle to Hayles & Howe, Bristol.

Crab Plastering Trophy, St Mary's, St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church, Huddersfield, to Protonight Plastering, Huddersfield.

Crab Silver Salver, Goodwood House, West Sussex, to Hayles & Howe, Bristol.



The film stars Roger Moore and Sophia Loren arriving at the 17th Opera Ball in Frankfurt on Saturday evening. Some 2,500 guests from the worlds of showbusiness, politics and business took part in the gala, "A Touch of Carnival".

## Orchids rise like phoenix from the ashes at Kew

By ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE value of fires in tropical forests is not immediately apparent, creating as it does

of the destruction of vast areas of vegetation. But controlled fires, as practised by villagers in various parts of the world, including Thailand, Vietnam and Central America, actually help to maintain lowland forests.

Burning the dry leaf litter on the forest floor without harming the trees stimulates new plant growth, which benefits the villagers.

This is the message being put across by a display inspired by the phoenix rising from the ashes at the annual Kew Orchid Festival. Orchids in warm colours have been used, such as massed yellow cymbidiums and red phalaenopsis and oncidiums.

The phoenix, represented by a woven-willow sculpture, rises through "flames" of red and yellow willow and dogwood stems.

Each display at the festival, which opened yesterday in the Princess of Wales Conservatory, has been inspired by myths, legends and stories, but all have a serious message.

The display of pink and white cymbidiums and phalaenopsis orchids inspired by the Arthurian legends highlights the fact that many forest plants, including orchids, are

becoming extinct before their potential value to medicine has been assessed. Merfyn the wizard, you may remember, created all his potions from forest plants. So conservation is the message here, as it is in the display of slipper orchids inspired by the Cinderella story. These are under great threat in the wild due to over-collecting, as they are the most desired of all orchids.

The tropical section of the conservatory has a Jack and the Beanstalk theme, with the climbing vanilla orchid representing the beanstalk. Just as Jack returned from his adventure with wealth, so the vanilla orchid is a generator of wealth in Madagascar, where it is the most important export crop.

The tropical display area also shows the orchid diversity at Kew, giving a taste of the sheer variety in shape, size and colour of orchids. Included is the emblem of the festival in the flesh: Darwin's orchid, *Angraecum sesquipedale*, from Madagascar, each flower being equipped with a 12m spur. Darwin studied this plant and thought it must be pollinated by a moth as it reached for nectar at the bottom of the spur. Though ridiculed at the time, he was eventually proved right: it is pollinated by the hawk moth.

A display in the temperate section of the conservatory has

a sustaining message. For example, it is far better to harvest orchid seeds in the wild than to collect plants.

Another display dispels the myth that orchids are impossible to grow as house plants. Hybrids of numerous genera such as cymbidiums, phalaenopsis, papilionidiums, miltonias and oncidiums flourish in the home, being better adapted to drier atmospheric conditions.

The story-inspired displays should appeal to children; indeed, there is generally more interest for youngsters this year, including storytelling in "Dracula's lair" in the chocolate boudoir that they sport in summer. Over a million of them come inland nowadays in the winter, and they are just starting to make their way back to the sea.

A few early hawthorn hedges have sprouted, with little fans of bright green leaves on the twigs. Silver catkins are coming out on the willow trees. The first colts-foot flowers are opening on wasteland and grassy verges: they are small yellow discs on stiff purple stems.

The festival, at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, West London, runs until March 28. Entrance is free after admission to the gardens, which are open from 9.30am to 5pm daily (glass houses close at 4.45pm). For information on festival courses and lectures, telephone 0181-332 5626, and for guided tours, 0181-332 5633.

## Nature notes

YELLOWHAMMERS are still feeding in small flocks in the fields, coming down where there are weeds under the hedges, or out in any lingering stubble. They do not move far in winter, and will soon be singing along the country lanes in their nesting territories. The males already have the bright yellow head and chestnut back of their summer plumage. Lesser spotted woodpeckers are making their spring call in the tree-tops: it is a thin, repeated note like the signal at pedestrian crossings. They are small woodpeckers, not much larger than a great tit; they have distinctive barred backs and the snakes have red crowns. Many black-headed gulls have acquired the chocolate hood that they sport in summer. Over a million of them come inland nowadays in the winter, and they are just starting to make their way back to the sea.

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## Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.R. Brookshaw and Miss G.J.K. O'Brien

The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Brookshaw, of Loughborough, Leicestershire, and Georgina, younger daughter of Colonel and Mrs John O'Brien, of Wareham, Dorset.

Mr S.L. Greenwood and Miss C.J. Dean

The engagement is announced between Sebastian, younger son of Mr and Mrs Philip Greenwood, of Warrle, Lancashire, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeffrey Dean, of Bracknell, Berkshire.

Mr G.E.A. Kent and Miss M.L. Griffiths

The engagement is announced between George, only son of Mr and Mrs Alan J. Kent, of Bourne, Dorset, and Melanie, only daughter of Mr Jerry Griffiths, of Warrle, Lancashire, and Mrs Sue Griffiths, of Warrle, Lancashire.

Mr M. Keston and Miss A. Crum Ewing

The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Mrs Yves Keston, of Nimes, France, and Arabella, daughter of Mr H.F. Crum Ewing, of Reading, Berkshire.

Mr E.A.W. MacLeod and Miss T.C. Richardson

The engagement is announced between Ewan, only son of Mr and Mrs Rory MacLeod, of Templecombe, Somerset, and Theresa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Bobby Richardson, of Blackheath, London.

Mr S.C.J. McCarthy and Miss R.E. Haines

The engagement is announced between Stuart, eldest son of Mrs Margaret Brock, of Andover, Hampshire, and Rachel, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Trevor Haines, of Wimblesham, Surrey.

Lieutenant D.P. Talbot, RE, and Miss T.J. Moore

The engagement is announced between Darren, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Talbot, of Warrington, Cheshire, and Tiffany, daughter of the Rev and Mrs David Moore, of Ham Common, Surrey.

Mr M.R. Daykin and Miss A.H. Rimmer

The marriage took place on Saturday, February 13, 1999, at St Mary's Church, Harrow-on-the-Hill, between Michael Richard Daykin, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Daykin, and Abigail Hall Rimmer, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Rimmer. The Rev James Fowler officiated.

Mr T.E.I. Ind and Miss E.J. Atterbury Thomas

The marriage took place on Sunday, at St Peter's Church, Kensington, of Mr Thomas Ind, second son of Dr and Mrs John Ind, of Chelsea, and Miss Emma Atterbury Thomas, eldest daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey Atterbury Thomas, retd, and Mrs Anne Atterbury Thomas, of Kensington, Leicestershire. Canon Hugh Broad officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Emma Oakley, and Olivia Smith. Mr James Ind was best man. A reception was held at Burrough House and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr D.C. Reilly and Miss T.N. Swell

The marriage took place at Westminster Register Office, London, on February 13, 1999, of Dominic Reilly and Tina Swell.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

## PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 982  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

If you proceed to pay a stranger's debt, you will regret it. You are better off not getting involved. (Proverbs 11:15 (GNT))

## BIRTHS

BYRNE - On 3rd February to Tams (née de Torny) and Sean, a son, Benedict Miles St John, a brother for Gabriel Byrne.

GREIG - On February 5th 1999 in Southampton, to Philippa (née King) and Sebastian, a daughter, Sebba Greig.

HARRITT - see Webster.

KING - On February 10th 1999 to Donna (née Hill) and Adrian, a splendid son, Adam Dudley Macrie King.

PASH - On 9th February in London, to Polly (née Bellam) and John, a daughter, Lucy Rebecca Pash.

RASSAY - On February 11th, 1999, to Gabriella (née Wedderburn) and Greville, a son, Hugh Rassy.

TAYLOR - On 12th February to Sallie (née Taylor) and Tim, a son Archie, brother to Fergus.

WEY - On February 9th, to Lisa and Richard, a daughter, Alexandra Lucy, a sister for Isabel and Tamsin.

## MARRIAGES

GRUNBERGER-MATHIAS - see Grunberger.

GRUNBERGER - On 14th February 1999, to Mrs K. Grunberger and Mrs L. Grunberger of London and Somerset, a son, Benjamin Grunberger.

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## DEATHS

BATCHFORD - Laura Edith, 60, died peacefully on 10th February, aged 60. Widow of Jack. Mother of John, much loved. Service at St Katharine's Church, Merthyr, on Tuesday 16th February at 2.30pm. Flowers or donations, if desired, to Agn. Comm. St. Katharine's Church, Merthyr.

BOYD-GUNN - Robert Peter, 67, died peacefully in his sleep at home on Monday 15th February 1999 after a long fight against cancer. Of the many appointments received by Peter were those of serving as G.O. to the Conservative Party, as a Member of Parliament and that of Royal Cypher Officer. Burial at St. Paul's Church, Brixton, on 17th February. He will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends. The funeral service is to be held at St. Paul's Church, Brixton, on Friday 19th February 1999 at 2.00pm. Flowers or if desired, donations to the Royal Cancer Campaign. Burial at St. Paul's Church, Brixton, on 17th February. He will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends. The funeral service is to be held at St. Paul's Church, Brixton, on Friday 19th February 1999 at 2.00pm. Flowers or if desired, donations to the Royal Cancer Campaign. Burial at St. Paul's Church, Brixton, on 17th February. He will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends. 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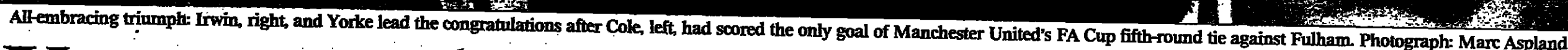




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**MONDAY FEBRUARY 15 1999**

**FOR THE CALL TO ARMS**



**Matches to be played weekend of March 6-7**

**Feeling the squeeze:** Keegan was in playful mood despite defeat







**'I made the offer to replay the match on television and also to Steve Bruce'**  
Arsène Wenger

## 'The goal was an accident. I am sorry'

IT HAD not been a good week for Nwankwo Kanu. Arsenal's £4.5 million signing from Internazionale, of Italy. Fellow expatriate members of the Igbo tribe from Nigeria wanted to welcome him to England with a traditional dance on the Highbury pitch, but Arsenal refused to play ball. Kanu was crestfallen. It was nothing, though, compared to the song and dance that he created when making his debut on Saturday.

Within 11 minutes of entering the FA Cup fifth-round tie against Sheffield United, Kanu was left a sad and bewildered figure. His crime, apparently inadvertent, was to break the unwritten code of conduct of returning the ball to an opponent after it had been deliberately kicked out of play. He gathered the

### Russell Kempson sees the FA Cup spill over with recriminations as combatants prepare to battle again

At the end, David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman and an influential Football Association councillor, conferred briefly with Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager. As Wenger went on television to reveal the offer of a replay to United, Dein took further soundings from Nick Coward, the FA's company secretary, and Terry Amable, chairman of the FA Challenge Cup committee, by telephone.

Bruce" Dein confirmed the offer to Bruce and also consulted with David Davies, the FA's acting executive officer. Within an hour, the FA had sanctioned a second meeting.

been justified because people have seen common sense and we have got a replay. I was in despair because I have never seen anything like that happen on a football pitch."

Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said yesterday: "The bush telegraph worked quickly. We're often criticised for acting too slowly, but it was agreed that this was the only way forward."

The issue of the match receipts — almost £1 million from the crowd of 38,020 and programme sales — will be resolved today to decide the ticket allocations. It has been suggested that a sizeable sum be donated to charity.

On Saturday, Wenger and Dein were magnanimous. Bruce was incensed. Pier Overmars, the referee, bemused. Overmars contrived and Kanu disengaged. Amid the tangle of emotions and gestures of goodwill, perhaps the Igbo dancers should be allowed to strut their stuff, after all.



**'I'm not a spoilt brat taking my ball home. I think I am the one who has been justified'**  
Steve Bruce

## The day that football cried foul



Sheffield United players descend angrily upon Jones, the referee, after the controversial circumstances that led to Arsenal's "winning" goal from Overmars in the fifth-round tie at Highbury. Photograph: Steve Barden

There are few moments in modern football when the robot athleticism, cloying commercialism and culture of the win bonus that recall the origins of the game and the sense of honour that pervaded it. The return of the ball to an opponent, even when the laws of the game do not strictly demand it, is one of the last remnants of that spirit, the only action that brings spontaneous applause from all supporters. It makes fans and players feel as if they are part of a sporting community, not just partisans seeking the downfall of the other.

Amid the catcalls, the boos, the obscene chants, the baiting, the taunting, the ritual hostility, it is a vestige of decency that jogs some half-forgotten instinct for fair play. If Arsenal and the Football Association had not colluded to force a replay of the FA Cup fifth-round tie against Sheffield United on Saturday, then this facet of the game, too, would have been lost to English football for ever.

Going with the flow, taking the pragmatic course and insisting that the result stood would have been as cynical as killing off the last of a rare species. It would have been a victory for bureaucrats, for pen-pushers and small minds, for jobsworths and unbending rule-observers everywhere.

If Arsenal had gone unchallenged into the sixth-round draw yesterday, how could any English

### Oliver Holt says that Arsenal and the FA have struck a valuable blow for sportsmanship

team have ever turned their backs in trust again? How could they have ever thought the best of their opponents? Just as important, failure to act would have reduced every team's willingness to kick the ball into touch to hasten treatment for an injury.

The curmudgeons will accuse David Davies, the FA's acting chief executive, of taking the easy option, of opening the game up to an anarchy of copycat claims, of acting with undue haste and pandering to populist appeal. In fact, Davies has taken the harder path, the path that opens him to more criticism, and it is something that he should be applauded for. The speed with which he acted merely helped to prevent a weekend of hysterical disapproval being directed at an Arsenal team already under fire for its disciplinary record.

There are many competing arguments here, many concerns, many legitimate worries about setting a precedent. At the bottom of it all, though, is the inescapable fact

that, morally, the FA has done the right thing. It is a long time since it has been accused of that. It may not be the best solution. It may, indeed, cause problems in the future. Of course, it would have been better if Overmars had taken the first opportunity to get the ball, run back towards his own goal, tap it into his own net and let the game start from scratch.

If one is being uncharitable towards Peter Jones, the referee might have stopped Nwankwo Kanu in his tracks and booked him for unsportsmanlike conduct. But that did not happen. If Arsenal had not offered, almost demanded, to replay the game, then there would have been little chance of ordering a replay. But that, too, makes this case different.

Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, and David Dein, the vice-chairman, were adamant that Sheffield United and Steve Bruce, their manager, be given a second chance, something that has not occurred when other abuses of the Corinthian spirit have happened in the past. The necessities need to be sorted out, as does the issue of whether supporters should have to pay to watch an occasion necessitated only by the naivety and stupidity of two of their own players. But that is insignificant compared with the blow for old values struck by Wenger and the FA.

Leading article, page 19

### THE REFEREE'S POINT OF VIEW

PETER JONES could do little to resolve the moral dilemma at Highbury. If he had booked Marc Overmars or Nwankwo Kanu for unsportsmanlike behaviour, he would have had to disallow Overmars's goal and, if he had done that, he could have been criticised for not having the authority to do so.

"Peter was 100 per cent right at the time," David Davies, England's leading referee, said yesterday. "A referee has no power to tell players to throw the ball back to their opponents and not to penalise them if they don't. It is a sporting decision between players. He's all. No law was broken. All referees would have done what he did."

Not so. In a game against Preston North End last month, Jeff Whitley, of Wrexham, scored direct from the restart after Preston had kicked the ball into touch to receive treatment. Brian Clough disallowed the goal and Wrexham lost 5-0.

Viewed from abroad, the Highbury affair has sent immediate and mixed messages to the football world. In bygone times, the English were associated with setting the standards of sportsmanship and in Barcelona, where many of football's brethren were gathered for the contest between Barcelona and Real Madrid, the consensus was: "How swift, how right, how Corinthian of the English." That it was at the behest of a Frenchman and that England were absorbing their second French lesson in a week, made little or no difference.

It was the rapid reaction of the Football Association that sent ripples around the international community, not least because the broken "gentleman's agreement" over the 2006 World Cup bid was taken overseas and because they considered that the FA moved with the pace of an elephant.

And yet there is foreboding. Many people recall that, a few seasons ago, the German football federation (DFB) ordered a league match vital to both the championship and relegation to be replayed when television proved a refereeing error after an incident similar to the disallowed goal that Nicolas Anelka scored at Wembley last week. They remember, too, that FIFA at once upbraided the DFB for unilaterally taking the decision.

The lack of consultation, not only with FIFA and UEFA, the world

### Rob Hughes says the Highbury affair may benefit England's 2006 World Cup bid

and European governing bodies, but also within the FA, will doubtless be raised when the International Football Board meets FIFA officials within the month.

We know, or can surmise, why David Davies accepted so rapidly the offer of a replay from Arsenal. It is justice of sorts and it would be churlish in the extreme not to applaud that. Kanu and Overmars may have broken an unwritten rule and it is time, if that is a problem, that FIFA puts this issue of sportsmanship firmly on to the statutes. The International Board meeting could write this into the rulebook with the blessing of all.

However, this assumes that Corinthianism still plays a part in a game that has become a vast, ruthless, commercial enterprise. The FA Cup has run for 127 years without confronting such a situation, or making such a rapid response. Yet it was in December, 1997, that Arsenal themselves felt cheated by Blackburn Rovers when Chris Sutton and Kevin Gallacher profited

at their expense. That was not overturned and now it is inconceivable that the other cheek of sportsmanship will be turned in future.

Should Davies have done what comes naturally to FA officials and dithered? If he had, then the moment and the momentum would have passed. Sheffield United would have accepted their wretched misfortune and the spirit of fair play would have suffered another, perhaps terminal, blow. But Davies, wishing to be seen to be as decisive — not least because he seeks permanent office — was also clever in his later statement. "We are members of FIFA," he said, "and their slogan is 'fair play'. We wanted to show everyone that fair play matters in this country."

Let us hope that it does. Let us grasp the spirit of what Wenger offered and the FA accepted with alacrity. It could mean more in the coming year than any amount of money spent trying to procure votes for 2006. If there are equal candidates, the one who plays fair, who sets the standards, deserves to be treated on merit.

From Jaap de Groot, the chief sports writer of the Dutch newspaper, *De Telegraaf* and one of the journalists in Barcelona, there was this conclusion. "Wenger may need to promise the Arsenal supporters that his club will try to win everything next season... they should already be assured of the Fair Play Trophy."

## Clumsy Rovers punished by Hignett

ONLY the meanest of souls can have followed Barnsley's unequal, heroic but ultimately futile battle against the fast squads and wallops of the FA Carling Premiership last season without developing a soft spot for the Yorkshiremen. It was, though, a little extreme of Bristol Rovers to take them with them to Oakwell on Saturday and play it at the heart of their defence.

Barnsley may have been out-sung in the stands, even outmanoeuvred on the pitch in the first half-hour, but it was Rovers who went out of the FA Cup, their pride mercifully but only tenuously intact, as Barnsley breezed into the quarter-finals for the second successive season with an assurance that they can



by Keith Pike

scarcely have dreamt possible, despite their loftier status. It was a measure of the scale of Rovers' defeat that their fans took more consolation from news of Bristol City's fate than they did from the late goal that Roberts tucked away neatly to complete the scoring.

Inter-city rivalries can be a source of comfort when your own train has been derailed.

More pertinently, as far as the Cup is concerned, how good are Barnsley? The team that was sucked unforgettingly into the Premiership relegation waters under Danny Wilson has made surprisingly few ripples in the first division under John Hendrie. There is a familiarity about the defence that conceded 94 goals last season and little has been changed in midfield, either, but while nearly £3 million has been spent on the attack, it is perhaps only now that Barnsley stand to reap the rewards of their investment.

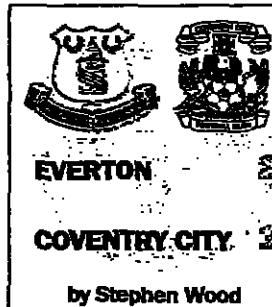
"You are only as good as your strikers," Hendrie said after being able to harness

Bruce Dyer, Craig Hignett and Mike Sheron together for the first time, to devastating effect. The main beneficiary was Hignett, operating in the hole that Rovers helped to dig for themselves. He scored a hat-trick, but on each occasion was aided by poor defending. "They say the worst things that can happen to a club are relegation and a change of manager," Hendrie said. Barnsley, having suffered both, maybe deserved a day such as this.

BARNLEY 3-1: A. Burch — A. De Zeeuw, A. Morris (sub. M. Gough), B. Sheron, J. Jones — N. Eadon, S. McCann, E. Taylor (sub. K. Richardson, 80), D. Swinerton — C. Hignett, 57. B. Dyer, M. Sheron (sub. M. Sheron, 87).

Not so. In a game against Preston North End last month, Jeff Whitley, of Wrexham, scored direct from the restart after Preston had kicked the ball into touch to receive treatment. Brian Clough disallowed the goal and Wrexham lost 5-0.

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by Stephen Wood

fools to reach the quarter-finals. The sense of relief around Goodison Park was overpowering. Players hugged each other, the supporters gave them a standing ovation and Thomas Myhre, the goalkeeper, threw his gloves into

the terraces. It was genuinely touching, providing, as it did, a welcome respite from the bludge that has preceded it.

Kenwright and Francis Jeffers, an 18-year-old striker, have leading roles to play in assuring a brighter future. Kenwright has launched an official attempt to buy the 68 per cent controlling interest still held by Peter Johnson, the former chairman. Jeffers, though, is the only ray of light on the field. Senior strikers such as Ibrahim Bakayoko, 22, and Danny Cadamarteri, 19, have dribbled the fortunes of the team into dead ends.

The form of Jeffers for the youth and reserve teams has been too good to ignore, confirming his comeback from a heart condition that interrupt-

ed his career last season. He scored his well-taken goal after 20 minutes, while John Ooster doubled the lead 13 minutes from time. In between, Dave Watson, the 37-year-old defender, was outstanding.

"There was a fear that Francis would not be big enough at this level," Watson said, "but they said that about Ian Rush and he did OK." Coventry threatened to ruin Everton's big day when Gary McAllister scored direct from a free kick with six minutes remaining.

EVERTON 4-2: T. Myhre — M. Wood (sub. J. O'Hara, 30min), D. Watson, R. Nelson, R. Shaw, G. Brown, D. Bannister (sub. P. Taylor, 69), P. O'Brien (sub. S. Brown, 73), G. McAllister, S. Friggone (sub. J. Alder, 78) — N. Whetton, D. Hackett, R. Barnes.

05/17/99 HT AP







# Bottle of English Hope leaves bitter taste in mouth

And this time the morning is more than dreadful. Your body rings with the sour taste of too much. You get only the misery. You have forgotten the reason why it all began. You have forgotten the feeling of feeling good. You just don't get it any more.

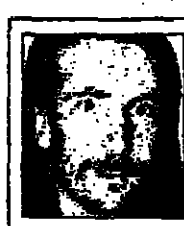
And, for some, there comes a day when you say: "Enough." Or "Too much. It ends now." And even then you fear that it could all start again. You fear that you might come sneaking back. No harm in watching a couple of overers is there? And maybe it wasn't so bad after all. Maybe the misery was an over-reaction. There are plenty of good things to be had. They had just

escaped your attention. After all, Goughy might stay fit. And Hickie really has come good at last, hasn't he? And the Gaffer. Well, that triple burden of captaincy, wicket-keeping and opening the batting. If anybody can do it, he can. And so you take a swig of that most dangerous and insidious bottle of all: the illegally-distilled hooch, the moonshine, England cricketers' murderous self-blinding white lightning known as Hope.

And the problems with that treacherous English potten is that one sip is never quite enough. And nor are one thousand. You sip until the bottle is dry and then you hunt for another. Hope is England cricketers' equivalent of the Old Jinx

Spirit, central ingredient for the most lethal cocktail of all, the Pan-Galactic Gargle-Blast-er. "Oh don't give me none of that Old Jinx Spirit, for my head will fly, my tongue will fly, my eyes will fry and I may die. Won't you pour me one more of that sinful Old Jinx Spirit."

That was how it felt on Saturday morning watching England playing, to use the term loosely, cricket, to use the term even more loosely. You brace yourself for a headache and you get a near-death experience. You brace yourself for disappointment and you get despair. You prepare yourself for defeat and you get humiliation. I mean, 13 for four. Switch off at once. But no, you watch.



SIMON BARNES



PROGRAMME NOTES

you sip on until the bottle is empty. You watch Ealham and Wells work out that the right tactic for dealing with the best slow bowler in the world is to swipe across the line.

The sole interest of the occasion became the question of whether or not England would sink to their worst-ever one-day defeat. Hoorsay! It turned out only to be their second worst. And Warne ended it all

with the perfect zooter — a delivery straight from the *Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy*. The last delivery implies that England were beaten by brilliance, when the truth is that they lost because they expected to lose. Don't believe a single thing they tell you about thinking positive, even though they all believe it themselves. They are all in thrall to the culture of defeat. They were de-

feated in their hearts before they set foot on the plane. This sickness in the soul has its fascination and brief moments, when — like a depressive having a good day — you could almost believe in recovery. And then the blackness descends. Churchill used to refer to his intermittent companion — depression — as the Black Dog. The England cricket team has been pursued across the past decade and a half by a baying pack of enormous black hounds.

And this is a problem for the television companies. The Sky commentary team responded with a kind of dull shock, but dullness has always been something of a *specialité de la maison*. Channel 4, which will

in time be taking on the summer Tests, must wonder if it has done the right thing.

Sure, the old lads will be back to sip once more from that bottle named Hope. But recruiting new viewers will be hard. Defeat is nearly as exciting as victory, but defeatism is another matter. Not very sexy, not very new millennium.

And, of course, there are viewers more strong-minded than myself, who will be able to walk away and who will not be back. Charles Colville cornered David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, and Graveney had clearly been hitting the Old Jinx Spirit pretty hard. He started talking about "one bad game".

Colville's charm as a televi-

sion person is that he lacks every iota of the wary old pro's attitude to the game. With a cry almost of pain, he blurted out, "But it's not just one bad game is it?" He was speaking for his viewers, which is a rare thing. He was protesting against the extraordinary refusals of England cricket people to come to terms with the fact that the England team is locked in a spiral of defeatism.

Graveney responded with a list of names and pointed out that people such as this "don't become bad players overnight". Perhaps not, but we keep on hoping that they are going to become good players overnight. Hoping. Hoping. Won't you pour me one more of that sinful Old Jinx Spirit?

## Keegan's actions indicate worm has not turned

Whoever coined the expression "can of worms" all those years ago has a lot to answer for. What to make of the Football Association's snap decision on Saturday to allow a replay of the controversial Arsenal v Sheffield United match? "Can of worms," every pundit said. The fact that nobody has ever seen a can of worms, or indeed stopped to consider the exact point of the expression, didn't much matter.

Yesterday, I found myself asking people who didn't care: "But why is it a can of worms? Do the worms escape? Is that the point? Or do they form an inextricable tangle? I mean, if the point is that the contents of the can rapidly disperse, like the stuff in Pandora's Box, why would you pick worms? Worms are really slow off the mark, surely? That's why there are no worm races in the Far East..."

At which point, I was forced to concede that certain idiomatic oddities just don't bear a lot of interrogation. At Old Trafford yesterday, however, worms were still much on my mind. They kept turning, all afternoon. The fifth-round FA Cup match turned out to be an exuberantly starchy, slidey affair, with those normally quick-witted Manchester United players made to look stolid and unimaginative by a zippy, slidey, slippery team.

If this is what the worms are like when they are let out, I now appreciate the force of the phrase. A bucketful of offal just doesn't cover it. Steve Finnan and the other Fulham defenders repeatedly wiggled the ball away from the United strikers — Andy Cole, Dwight Yorke, Ole Gunnar Solskjær — while, in attack, Barry Hayles escaped his markers as though coat-

### LYNNE TRUSS



ed in Castrol GTX. I have never seen such wriggly-writhy lubrication on a football field. "Go, worms, go," I urged them, finding that I had taken sides in an unprofessional manner. "Yoo hoo, Kevin! Great job with those worms!" And so on.

When you don't support either team yourself, you can take a lot of consolation from a valiant 1-0 defeat, well-fought. It's the irritating privilege of the non-aligned. To be frank, I had a marvellous time at Old Trafford yesterday (despite the freezing drizzle) because the game was clean and clever and full of blocked shots that rebounded dangerously, only to be struck and blocked again. "Ooh-ah," we said, a lot.

It wasn't what I had expected from the match programme, in which each Fulham player was dammed with faint praise for his doggedness and "good service". As



Basking in the spotlight: Fulham's exit from the FA Cup at Old Trafford left Keegan as the inevitable centre of attention with the job of England manager to be filled

it turned out, you see, Fulham needed only big-brimmed hats, with ostrich feathers in to announce any more clearly their elegance and flair.

The big story of this match, of course, was what its outcome would signify for the future of Kevin Keegan — a complicated calculation based entirely on supposition. Winning and reaching the quarter-finals of the Cup would impress everybody at the FA, but also (perhaps) make him more determined to do the right thing and stick with Fulham. Losing the match disastrously would be bad for any England ambitions; but then he was claiming until yesterday not to have any, anyway. Aargh. Now he's saying he will speak to the FA if they call him, but that he won't "walk out" on his contract. I am attracted towards an image involving a tangle of primitive subterranean organisms

revealed in a tin receptacle, but will resist it at all costs.

The key to Keegan is his love of the limelight, of course. He's got charisma, he's a household name, he loves beguiling headlines, so how long will he really remain at Fulham? Yes, Fulham have responded magnificently to treatment and will soon go up a division, but they are now out of the Cup and the rest of the season will be hard work for a relatively meagre reward.

Last year, at an event promoting Keegan's autobiography (his third), I met a woman who idolised him so utterly that she had 42 scrapbooks, a hundred videos and (I think) even his home address. "He always sends me a Christmas card," she whispered, giving me a nudge. "She prefers Cliff to me, re-

ally," Keegan responded, undisturbed. When he was on the telly after a recent match at Southampton, he told Barry Davies "good to be back" — and he surely didn't mean it was good to be back at smelly old Southampton, unless he was losing his mind.

I assume it's dangerous to read

ed, that Keegan has everything that we've been after. "We lack motivation!" we all wailed on Wednesday, after the match. "He has given them motivation!" we exclaimed yesterday. The only problem is that Keegan has what a friend of mine recently described as a "pattern of flight" — of disappearing unexpectedly. And patterns don't get broken very often in life.

"Ooh, er, where did Kev disappear to?" is the regular cry, wherever he pledges himself.

So no wonder, every time he's recently declared his allegiance to Fulham (his intention as an honourable man to fulfil his contract and finish the job and keep right on to the end of the road), it has sounded increasingly hollow. At the back of everyone's mind is the

niggle: if he's willing to leave Fulham after all (with his chairman's blessing), won't the cry "ooh, er, where's Kev?" inevitably ring out at Lancaster Gate one day in the next couple of years?

On the subject of that other can of worms this weekend, I started out with a gooey feel-good reaction to Arsène Wenger's grand gesture, and a tear rolled down my cheek. But I changed my mind, actually. Since no rule was actually broken, I decided that the referee was right and the goal should stand and, above all, Arsenal should not be allowed to look like good guys when they are actually bad guys. Scoring that goal was a bad-guy act and a just outcome is that they should live with it and hang their heads. Thus is the can of worms neatly avoided, for a start, and also all those bizarre knee-jerk allusions to Corinth, which presumably don't bear looking at either.

### 'Where did Kev disappear to? is the regular cry'

#### NETBALL

### Essex enjoy double celebration

ESSEX Met won the Alex Barlas under-18 inter-county tournament for the first time since 1990 when they beat Surrey 14-7 yesterday (Cathy Harris writes). In a double celebration, both their under-18 and under-16 sides collected the trophies for the best defensive records.

Maria Fitzgerald and Nicola Darby shared the honours in the goalkeeping, but the presence of Laura Hudson and Sarah Bowler, the England 2000 players, also proved to be decisive. In the under-16 section, the five England under-17 players in the South Durham and Cleveland squad helped their team to a convincing 23-8 victory over Birmingham.

Lizzie Thomas, 15, the goal-shooter, made the most of her 58 11-in to score 14 goals, receiving excellent support from Vicky Phillips, Jill Mulrooney, Melissa Storey and Natalie Connor, her England teammates. Liz Broomhead, the chairman of the England selectors, said that 100 players had been identified and would be invited to area coaching. "We found some talented individuals, especially from the West Country," she said.

## Don't fall into the same trap

### Devlin Barrett holds his non-giant foam hand up and says British ice hockey is more exciting than the NHL

foam hand that makes any sense has a single index finger raised in a point, so that you can wave it and scream over and over: "We're No!! The one-fingered foam hand is as American as apple pie, seducing interns and bombing places that we can't pronounce. What were these British ice hockey fans trying to say? We're No!! But a funny thing happened during my little reverie. The teams kept playing hockey, back and forth, shooting, passing, hitting with greater and greater intensity.

As a National Hockey

League (NHL) fan, I'm ashamed to say I had not seen this in a long time.

In the millionaire pros, you see, they have a system called the "trap", and it is pure evil. Imagine a football field half as wide as it should be and all the players jamming up the midfield playing defence only, never allowing the other team to get in scoring range but never letting your own team get there, either.

In the NHL, team owners hire the best of the world's talent, like "Russian Rocket" Pavel Bure for £3 million a

year, and throw them up against the trap so they can do next to nothing.

But up in Manchester, no one was playing the trap. Just all-out, go-get 'em hockey.

Okay, so the players weren't as good as the NHL. The shots were weaker, the hitting was inconsistent, and the skating... well, let's not talk about the skating.

But, in the absence of the trap, and a bigger, European-style ice surface, the game was much better than half of those played in the NHL on any given night — and more exciting. Both sides took chances, gambled and won, gambled and lost.

On Saturday night, it was Manchester's turn, winning 3-1 to go slightly ahead of Cardiff in the table, with only a handful of games to play.

Later, Kurt Kleinendorst, the Manchester coach, talked gleefully about the differences between the NHL and Sekonda Superleague. "Over there, there's no room to escape and generate some offense," he said. "Can you imagine Pavel Bure on this ice?"

Ever since he said that, I can't stop imagining it. A hockey nut like myself could easily go blind watching Bure unleashed on this surface.

It's enough to make me forget all about that rinky-dinky little league in the States.



Eye of the storm: Darren Hurley, of Manchester, keeps a close watch on his side's progress from the bench

#### BASKETBALL

## Decision angers Nemeth

By NICHOLAS HARLING

PETER SCANTLEBURY, who thought that his days as an England player were over after collecting a record haul of 124 caps, has suddenly found himself a man in demand. So badly, in fact, is the Sheffield Sharks' forward required by Laszlo Nemeth, the national team coach, that a club v country confrontation has only narrowly been averted.

Dr. Nemeth, who wants Scantlebury not only as his assistant coach but also as a player, invoked a rule of Fiba, the world governing body, obliging clubs to release players for international duty. England, who will prepare for the European championship qualifier against Belarus at Crystal Palace on February 24 with two games in Switzerland, wanted Scantlebury for all three international matches, which would have meant him missing the Sharks' vital Budweiser League encounter against London Towers next Sunday.

The argument was resolved last week after a compromise was reached between the Sharks and Simon Kirkland, the chief executive of the English Basketball Association. Scantlebury will play for the Sharks before flying to Geneva for the second of the two international matches in Nyon.

The compromise has not pleased Dr. Nemeth, however. "Fiba dates are known five years in advance," he said. "It wouldn't have taken a rocket scientist to work out that the Sharks shouldn't have arranged their game for the Sunday."

Scantlebury sank eight points on Saturday when the Sharks maintained their push for the title with an enthralling 98-89 victory over Thames Valley Tigers at Bracknell. Trailing 18-12 to one of only two teams to have beaten them this season in the League, the Sharks then reeled off the next 13 points to indicate their re-

solve. The result was in doubt until the last three minutes, when Terrell Myers benefited first from an unsportsmanlike foul by Casey Arena and then from goallending by Jason Siemon to add in two earlier significant three-pointers. When Myers then fouled Arena, who missed all three free throws, the Tigers knew that it was not going to be their day.

They had succumbed chiefly to Todd Cauthorn, who scored 26 points for the Sharks. Manchester Giants, the Sheffield side's only title rivals, also won at the weekend. Their 94-85 victory away to Worthing Bears, the bottom club, came with the help of 24 points from Tony Dorsey.

### Five Nations Rugby

England v Scotland  
20th Feb Twickenham

England v France  
20th March Twickenham

Wales v England  
11th April Wembley

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GOLF: ASPIRING YOUNGSTER LEAVES WESTWOOD AND COMPANY TRAILING AS HE SECURES DESERT CLASSIC

# Howell begins to fulfil promise

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN DUBAI

A LOT has been expected of David Howell since he turned professional in 1995 with words of praise from Peter McEvoy ringing in his ears. "He is one of the best I have seen for ten years," McEvoy, then captain of the England amateur team of which Howell was a star member, said.

Now Howell, 23, is turning that promise into reality. Victory in the Desert Classic here yesterday was his second as a professional in three months and he now looks a lot

better than the 169th-best golfer in the world, which is what he was ranked at the start of last week.

In Sydney last November, Howell ran away with the Australian PGA championship by opening up a lead of six strokes in the third round and coasting to his maiden victory as a professional by seven strokes. Here, at Dubai Creek, on a day of sunshine and a light breeze that contrasted with the gloomy, overcast conditions of the third round,

Howell laid waste to the field over the outward half of his final round. He reached the turn in 31 strokes, five under par, to leave his rivals gasping. Howell birdied the 1st while Wayne Riley, with whom he had shared the lead at eight under par overnight, bogeyed it and that two-stroke swing sent each man on their respective ways. A 67 by Howell, who led by six strokes at one point, took him to 13 under par, four strokes ahead of Lee Westwood. Riley had a 74 to fall back to six under par, where he was tied with Ed Frysait and Colin Montgomerie.

Howell has been known as a long hitter for some time. "I played with him in a practice round for the Open two years ago and he was long then and, if anything, a bit wild," Mark James, the Ryder Cup captain, said. "To win round here suggests he is obviously not wild now. If you can win here, you can win anywhere."

Howell's birdie on the 1st settled any nerves that he might have had, but it came after he had driven into the rough. He was wild off the tee on the 3rd as well as the 4th, where he holed a 40ft putt for a birdie. An eagle on the 5th, where he used a three-wood and a five-iron before sinking a 6ft putt, steadied him, and birdies on the 9th and 10th holes confirmed that he was not going to let the initiative slip.

Westwood, returning to something like his best after his winter lay-off, proved to be the closest of Howell's pursuers — his final round of 67 following scores of 72, 71, and 69. On the 15th, he hit a seven-iron to 4ft and holed for a birdie — enabling him to leap ahead of James and Paul McGinley, who were tied for third place, eight under par, after rounds of 69 and 67 respectively.



Howell produced a superb final round to win the Desert Classic in Dubai yesterday. Photograph: Jack Dabaghian

Westwood said. "I think that David lacked self-belief until he played well in Japan in November and then went to Australia and won there a week later."

Howell agreed. He said: "Pete Cowen, my coach, used to tell me not to put myself down so much, that I don't believe I am as good as I am." This win should give Howell all the confidence that he needs.

John Hopkins's column will appear later this week.

## LEADING FINAL SCORES

(Great Britain and Ireland unless stated)  
 27th D Howell 69, 62, 71, 67, 27th L Westwood 72, 71, 69, 67, 28th P McGinley 71, 73, 67, 14 James 73, 69, 69, 28th C Montgomerie 70, 70, 72, 70, E Fryssait 70, 70, 70, 72, W Riley 68, 70, 70, 74, 28th A West 70, 70, 72, 71, J Sandhu 73, 69, 70, 71, M Jamar 73, 67, 70, 73, 28th A Costa 73, 68, 73, 75, 68, M Jamar 73, 67, 70, 73, 28th P Price 67, 72, 73, 71, M Campbell 71, 71, 71, 71, 28th G Evans 70, 70, 75, 68, J Bickerton 72, 73, 71, 68, D Robertson 71, 72, 69, P Jones 68, 72, 74, 70, J Sandhu 69, 69, 70, 75

## BOXING

## Calzaghe loses his air of authority

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

JOE CALZAGHE retained his World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight championship against Robin Reid, of Runcom, at the TeleWest Arena, Newcastle, but he lost his aura of invincibility. Calzaghe won by the narrowest of margins. The judges scored the contest 2-1 in the Welshman's favour, but their marks of 9-4, 9-4 to Calzaghe and 9-4 to Reid, were bizarre.

Had Reid not been penalised one point in the eighth round for a low blow on Saturday, Calzaghe might have lost his title. Many experts at the ringside had Reid winning by a point. Colin Jones, the former world welterweight contender, who was working for Welsh radio, made Reid the winner.

On this performance, Calzaghe can no longer be considered the best super-middleweight in the world. He

blamed his showing on an injury sustained to his left hand in the fifth round. Since he has received other injuries and even undergone operations, the injury will reinforce concern for the future. His father, Enzo, who trains him, said: "He was only 80 per cent because of the injury."

Frank Warren, the promoter, said that a rematch was in order, but the bout he wanted to put on was Calzaghe against Richie Woodhall, the World Boxing Council champion. Warren could not say which would come first.

Woodhall retained his title against Vincenzo Nardello, of Italy, stopping him in the sixth. The Telford man had been told by doctors to retire sooner rather than later because of an elbow injury, but he wants to hang on for a big pay day, which means a bout with Calzaghe.

## BOWLS

## Sanders is offered a second chance

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

A REMARKABLE finish, reminiscent of the way in which they won the Liberty Trophy last April, gave Durham an exciting 12-117 win over Devon in the semi-finals of the national inter-county championship at Wellingborough on Saturday.

Television cameras had turned up to put Griff Sanders, Devon's self-styled bad boy of bowls, under the spotlight, but, if the programme-makers had hoped that he might do his famous John McEnroe impression, they were disappointed.

John Frisby, the secretary of the host club, said: "Griff couldn't have behaved better. He applauded the opposition's good bowls and he was the epitome of good sportsmanship throughout."

Sanders, banned by the Devon County Bowling Association for ten years, had the implementation of the ban suspended for two years by an English Bowling Association (EBA) tribunal last month, so he is free to play outdoors — on probation, as it were — until September, 2000.

The EBA tribunal, which kept Devon happy by upholding the ban, recommended also that, if he behaves himself for those two years, the ban should be lifted.

He passed the test on Saturday, even though the match was effectively won and lost on the last end on his rink, when Chris Palmer's quartet claimed a count of five that turned a two-shot deficit into a three-shot advantage.

In the final at Melton Mowbray on Saturday, April 18, Durham will play Hampshire.

## MOTOR RALLYING

## McRae bemoans Finn's dominance

FROM JEREMY HART IN KARLSTAD

COLIN MCRAE described Tommi Makinen's victory in the Swedish Rally yesterday as bad for the sport. It was the Finn's fifth win in the past six events and McRae said: "It is not good for one driver to be so dominant."

McRae, who was forced out of the event on Saturday, predicts a fourth successive world championship for Makinen, unless Carlos Sainz, who was second for a fourth year in a row in Sweden, can find a chink in the Finn's armour.

"With many drivers in new cars still finding their feet, this could be Tommi's easiest title yet," McRae said. "He is understandably confident at the moment, but by mid-season I reckon we will be winning and, although the championship might be out of our grasp, we will still add some sparkle to the end of the year."

Makinen, in a Mitsubishi,

dominated the Swedish Rally almost from start to finish, although Sainz, driving a Toyota, led briefly on Friday before losing his grip on an event never won by a non-Scandinavian driver.

"It is of course disappointing not to have moved up a place after four years of finishing second," Sainz said. "This has been the fastest Swedish Rally I can remember. At one point, we hit 200 kilometres an hour — and on ice."

Makinen's lead in the title race is a healthy 13 points from Didier Auriol, the No 2 Toyota driver, who was fourth in Sweden. The Frenchman was locked in a close fight for third place until the last stage, but eventually lost out by 2.5sec to Thomas Rådström in the second Ford Focus. Richard Burns, in a Subaru, finished fifth after struggling with unsuitable tyres.

## SNOOKER

## Higgins kept on tight rein by Doherty's persistence

BY PHIL YATES

KEN DOHERTY, who has found, over the past few days that mediocre form does not necessarily block the path to success, entered the concluding session of the Benson and Hedges Masters final at Wembley Conference Centre last night on level terms with John Higgins, the world champion, with the opportunity still there to become the first Irish winner of the game's leading invitation event since Dennis Taylor recovered from 8-6 down to edge out Alex Higgins 9-8 in 1987.

However, any assumption from the 4-4 scoreline at the interval that Doherty had at last regained the form that enabled him to win the world title in 1997, was well wide of the mark. The Dubliner had rarely engaged anything higher than second gear all week, but, crucially, he continued to fight determinedly against struggling opponents.

In turn, Steve Davis, Ronnie O'Sullivan and Alan McManus were below par against him and Higgins, the odd flourish accepted, also failed to display his usual level of reliability.

Higgins, who overcame the handicap of a stomach upset to defeat Anthony Hamilton 6-3 in a low-key semi-final on Saturday, began brightly, with breaks of 45 and 35 in the first frame, before Doherty potted brown, blue and pink for 1-1. Again Higgins threatened to take command when, crasing a 60-point deficit with an exceptional 66 clearance, he stole the third frame on the black and cleared with 34 to win the fourth for a 3-1 advantage at the mid-session interval.

Without being able to generate any level of fluency, Doherty controlled the fifth frame tactically, but, 27-0 ahead in the sixth, he went in-off playing an attempted safety and Higgins stepped in with a 76 break to establish a 4-2 lead.

Higgins, who eased through his opening matches by beating Alain Robidou and Mark King 6-1, looked set to press on, but, after sportingly calling a foul shot on himself at a critical stage of the seventh frame, the pendulum swung against him.

Higgins, forced to bridge awkwardly over the pack, potted a red to a middle pocket, but, in so doing, illegally grazed another with his cue. He immediately alerted Jan Verhaas, the referee, and a

frame-winning opportunity disappeared.

On his next visit to the table, Higgins misjudged a return to safety. Doherty put together a run of 47 and, greatly assisted by fluking the penultimate red, he took a low-scoring, disjointed eighth frame to restore parity.

Six of the remaining 11 frames were required in order to collect a first prize of £155,000, the largest so far this season. To become only the third player to simultaneously hold the world, United Kingdom and Masters titles after Davis and Stephen Hendry was an additional and powerful incentive for Higgins.

Even though Doherty was fighting a fierce rearguard action, it was generally accepted that Higgins retained his status as favourite, having prevailed in six of his eight previous encounters with Doherty, including an 18-12 victory in the world championship final nine months ago. The last time that he played in the final of a leading tournament, Higgins came alive in the second session. On that occasion, he pulled away from Matthew Stevens to win the United Kingdom championship at Bournemouth in November.

However, despite his consistency and unparalleled record over the past three years, Higgins has lost 12 of the 24 finals he has contested. Doherty, a keen student of the game, was surely aware of that particular statistic, and must have drawn a certain amount of confidence from it.

SEMI-FINALS: P. Doherty, 6-3, A. McManus (Scot); R. O'Sullivan, 6-3, A. Hamilton (Eng); J. Higgins, 6-4, J. Verhaas (Ire). Frame scores (Higgins first): 63-31, 52-69, 66-60, 61-34, 1-72, 80-27, 51-70, 21-56.

Higgins remains favourite

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## SPORT IN BRIEF

## Hua defeats champion

■ **SWIMMING:** Chen Hua, of China, defeated Claudia Poll, of Costa Rica, the world and Olympic champion, in both the 400 and 800 metres freestyle events in Glasgow over the weekend as the World Cup arrived in Europe (Craig Lord writes). Chen won the 400 metres in 4min 4.50sec, the eighth-fastest time in history. British successes included national records for Zoe Baker, of Sheffield, who swam 31.55sec in the 50 metres breaststroke, and Nicola Jackson, of Derwentiside, who finished third in the 50 metres butterfly in 27.50sec.

■ **CYCLING:** Dave Rand, the English road race champion in 1998, was disqualified from the Peris Pedal Race in Hampshire, yesterday, by a police motorcycle outrider for alleged infringement of traffic regulations. "I had been warned earlier about my riding," Rand said, "but on unmarked stretches of road with no on-coming traffic. The policeman drew up alongside me and said, 'You're out of the race,' so I got off my bike."

■ **JUDO:** Kate Howey, the world middleweight champion, from Andover, survived a damaged knee to win a bronze medal at the Tournoi de Paris on Saturday. In her first round bout against Yulia Semenova, of Russia, Howey collapsed on the edge of the mat, but, after treatment, resumed and won. In the fight for the bronze, Howey met Karine Rambault, of France, and dominated to reach the podium on a decision.

■ **BOXING:** Oscar de la Hoya, of the United States, beat Ike Quartey, of Ghana, on points in Las Vegas on Saturday to retain his World Boxing Council welterweight crown. It was Quartey's first defeat in 36 bouts. "It was a very intimidating fight for me," De la Hoya, who is now unbeaten in 30 contests, said. Two judges went for De la Hoya, by margins of 116-112 and 116-113, while the third went for Quartey 115-114.

■ **ATHLETICS:** Gert Thys, of South Africa, ran the second-fastest marathon in history yesterday. Thys, 27, clocked 2hr 6min 33sec to win the Tokyo Marathon, 28sec outside the world best that was recorded by Ronaldo da Costa, of Brazil, in Berlin last September. Thys finished 1min 32sec ahead of Hiroshi Miki, of Japan.

■ **SKIING:** Zali Steggall gave Australia a first Alpine title on Saturday when she won the women's slalom at the world championships in Vail, Colorado. Her winning time was 1min 33.97sec. Pernilla Wiberg, of Sweden, the slalom champion in 1996, finished second in 1min 34.77sec, while Trine Bakke, of Norway, was third.

■ **FOOTBALL:** Arsenal, the FA Women's Premier League leaders, drew 2-2 with visiting Doncaster Belles, their closest challengers, at Pottery Bar yesterday, despite being reduced to ten players. Vicki Slee was dismissed for protesting against a penalty decision in the fifth minute, but her team were denied victory only by a second-half equaliser from Vicky Exley.

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## CRICKET

# Jaded England suffer their final indignity

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE (Australia won toss; Australia beat England by 162 runs)

ENGLAND ended their four-month tour of Australia at the MCC on Saturday with a resounding defeat in the second of the finals of the triangular tournament, making a third game unnecessary as Australia had won in Sydney last Wednesday.

It was the second-biggest margin of defeat that England have suffered in 292 one-day internationals and a score of 110 was their fourth-lowest total. "As a team, we have not batted well enough," was Alec Stewart's view of their overall performance. Yet he thought still that they could do well in the World Cup.

Australia made 272 for five from their 50 overs, with half-centuries from Gilchrist, Lehmann and Martyn. In no time at all, England found themselves 13 for four, with Hick, Hussain and Fairbrother failing to contribute a run.

Stewart denied that the players were tired and, given that nine members of this party had arrived in Australia at Christmas, he had a point. But he would be less than human if he was not feeling sore. He has been here since October, playing as captain, opening batsman and wicketkeeper, and this is a big country. He has let nobody down.



Stewart: still optimistic

Had England won in Sydney, as they should have done, there might have been a spring in their step on Saturday. As it was, they looked jaded. It did not help that Knight was run out in the second over and that Hick cut his second ball to third man. After that, it was a procession and the innings ended tellingly when Warner fooled Mulhally with his flipper, just to remind everybody that he is back.

The England bowling stood up well, the fielding has, at times, been excellent, but teams win matches by making runs, or chasing them. Hick, named jointly with McGrath as man of the series, scored three hundreds, but England won only one of those games. They do not often bat confidently as a team. Knight made one fifty, Stewart none and apart from Hick and Fairbrother, who batted well in three games, and Hussain, who got a 90, the rest have made twenties and thirties — and that doesn't win you many games.

Five of the first six batting places, however, are pretty secure. Stewart and Knight will open. Hick will bat at No 3 with Fairbrother at No 5 and Adam Hoggie below him, although Hoggie could do with a few runs in Sharjah. Who occupies the important position of No 4 is unclear. David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said yesterday that Graham Thorpe, who returned home during the Test series with a back injury, was ready to return. "He has had extensive treatment under the supervision of Philip Bell, the England team doctor, and has made himself available to go to Sharjah, in early April."

England badly need a fit Thorpe, for Hussain rarely gave the impression of being master of a one-day situation. Crawley batted limply in two important matches and Ben Hollis has fallen from favour. England, who have lost six of their past seven one-day games, must regroup swiftly to justify Stewart's post-match hopes for the World Cup. By contrast, Australia will start as second-favourites, behind South Africa. They have won their past seven one-day matches and can expect to add to that list in the Caribbean when they go there later this month. In the absence of Steve Waugh, Warner has captained the side with uncommon flair.

He ended up with three wickets on Saturday, after McGrath and Dale had again failed to contribute effect. Dale, who gives the batsmen little to hit, could be a "trump card" in England, to borrow Warner's phrase, and McGrath always takes some holding. He had fortune on his side here in winning an appeal for a catch at the wicket of Hussain. The batsman could be excused for taking a deep breath before he departed.

England need not despair. Few teams win one-day tournaments in other countries, as they know from their good form in the Texaco Trophy every May. But time is running out and some important matters await resolution.



Hansen showed her best form for a year, yet she could still finish no better than second at the BUPA Grand Prix in Birmingham yesterday. Photograph: Phil Cole/Allsport

## ATHLETICS

# Ethiopian's dramatic run enthrals British crowd

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

HOW nearly it all ended in huge anticlimax, but Haile Gebrselassie negotiated the hazards that stood before him on the final bend of the 5,000 metres in the BUPA Grand Prix yesterday to set his fifteenth world record. It was a run as magnificent as it was dramatic.

The meeting had stuttered from one failed African world record attempt to another — by Daniel Komen and Maria Mutola — without success. It was lifted only by a succession of fine British performances. Then, Gebrselassie stepped on to the track for the last event.

Shouted on by a capacity crowd of 8,500, many of them his Ethiopian countrymen, Gebrselassie kept to world-record schedule going into the final lap, which he needed to cover in only 30sec, slower than his average speed for the previous 24 laps. All he needed was for the three tail-enders he was about to lap for the second time to step aside.

However, Miroslav Vanko, Reda Benane and Jonah Kiprus kept the inside line and Gebrselassie was forced wide into the third lane. Then, weaving his way in and out of the three, he managed somehow to avoid a clash of bodies and strode to a world record in 12min 50.38sec, beating Komen's world record by 1.10sec.

The meeting could not have asked for a better start, a British record in the opening event by a local woman. Katharine Merry, Birmingham resident and Birchfield Harrier, who went to the top of the year's world rankings in her first — and last — international race of the indoor season. Merry, 24, recorded 22.83sec to take 0.13sec off the record held for two years by Donna Fraser.

Previously, Merry had held the record. In regaining it, she might have been tempted to abandon plans to go training in Australia and run in the world indoor championships in Maebashi, Japan, next month — but no. Instead, Merry remains single-minded about peaking for the outdoor season.

"I do not want to change my plans, even if I am the fastest in the world this year and

I have never been up there before," Merry said.

Coached by Linford Christie, Merry has been persuaded to delay, by at least a season, her move up to 400 metres. Though she came close to breaking Siseac last season and won a European relay bronze medal, she only dabbled at the distance. She will do so again this year, concentrating on 200 metres.

"Last year was my first year with Linford and my first since 1993, when I had a full season," Merry said. "It might be next season I move up to 400, but it might be the season after that."

Merry shares a house in Birmingham with Ashia Hansen. Under the same roof as athletes yesterday, Hansen was as pleased as Merry. Showing her best form since setting a indoor triple jump world record last February, Hansen produced a last-round leap of 14.76 metres. Her world record still stands, at 15.16 metres.

Curiously, Hansen's mark

Results.....34

puts her at the head of the world rankings for the year, yet she finished second. She shares the lead in the rankings with Sarka Kasparkova, the world indoor champion from the Czech Republic, after both women recorded 14.76 metres. However, Kasparkova took the victory with a superior second mark.

Janine Whitlock improved her British pole vault record by a centimetre to 4.29 metres. While Whitlock flew through the air, Komen's world record attempt in the 2,000 metres failed to get off the ground. As Whitlock was clearing the bar, Komen was struggling even to stay in touch with the leaders, let alone the record. In a race won by Laban Rotich, from Kenya, in 4min 56.09sec, more than 3sec outside the world record. Komen finished fourth.

In the second of three world record attempts, Maria Mutola, from Mozambique, was also unable to deliver. She won, but in 1min 58.25sec, almost 2sec outside her target.

## SCOREBOARD FROM MELBOURNE

Australia won toss	
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	
1 A C Gilchrist c Knight b McGrath 52	(42 balls, 6 fours)
M E Waugh c Hick b Gough 1	(12 balls)
R T Ponting c Fairbrother b Hollis 37	(43 balls, 1 yr, 3 fours)
D S Lehmann c Hussain b Wells 71	(75 balls, 4 fours)
D R Martyn b Mulhally 57	(95 balls, 1 yr, 2 fours)
S G Law not out 20	(15 balls, 1 four)
S Lee not out 20	(15 balls, 1 four)
Extras 10 (w 3, nb 3, lb 4)	
Total (50 overs, 204mins) 272	
<b>ENGLAND</b>	
1 A C Stewart c Lee b McGrath 31	(52 balls, 4 fours)
S R Waugh c Gough b McGrath 23	(42 balls, 4 fours)
M A Hussain c Gilchrist b Dale 12	(24 balls, 1 four)
V J Wells b Warner 12	(24 balls, 1 four)
A J Hoggie c Gilchrist b Dale 7	(14 balls)
M A Fairbrother c McGrath 12	(24 balls, 1 four)
R D B Croft not out 13	(12 balls, 1 four)
D Gough c Gilchrist b Julian 6	(14 balls)
A D Mulhally b Warner 9	(10 balls, 2 fours)
Extras 10 (w 3, nb 3, lb 4)	
Total (51.5 overs, 130mins) 110	
<b>FALL OF WICKETS:</b> 1-11 (Gilchrist 3), 2-10 (Stewart 31), 3-104 (Lehmann 31), 4-121 (Martyn 57), 5-244 (Law 20)	
<b>BOWLING:</b> McGrath 6-26-2 (4 fours), Dale 10-47-2 (11 fours), Ponting 10-34-1 (2 fours), Waugh 6-22-1 (2 fours), Gilchrist 5-24-1 (1 four), Wells 5-24-1 (1 four), Mulhally 5-24-1 (1 four), Law 5-24-1 (1 four), Lee 5-24-1 (1 four)	
<b>Score after 15 overs:</b> 58 for 1	
<b>England's 1st over:</b> 1-11 (Gilchrist 3), 2-10 (Stewart 31), 3-104 (Lehmann 31), 4-121 (Martyn 57), 5-244 (Law 20)	
<b>England's 2nd over:</b> 1-11 (Gilchrist 3), 2-10 (Stewart 31), 3-104 (Lehmann 31), 4-121 (Martyn 57), 5-244 (Law 20)	

# World championship put to test

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN CALCUTTA

THE Asian Test Championship (ATC), which begins tomorrow, does not immediately strike as being the most important event in world cricket this winter, yet the success or otherwise of this tournament will have far wider implications for the structure of the game in the millennium than the result will hold for local pride.

When India and Pakistan meet in Calcutta, they open just the second triangular Test competition in history and the first since 1912. Later this month, Sri Lanka entertain India before the Sri Lankans visit Pakistan in March. Uniquely, points will be awarded not only for victory, but also for runs scored and wickets taken in a format that mirrors the

English county championship almost precisely.

The top two countries will meet in the final in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on March 12 to 16. It is hard not to see this as the initial step towards a world championship, particularly as Jagmohan Dalmiya, the ambitious and evangelical president of the International Cricket Council (ICC), is among the biggest supporters of the idea.

Dalmiya recently described the ATC as a "pilot" and, at the very least, it might become a regular event in the sub-continent, swelling to four countries if and when Bangladesh receive full Test-playing status.

With the ICC due to reopen discussions on a reorganised Test championship soon after the World Cup, however, the events of the coming month will be scrutinised by all nine full members.

In particular, they will wish to assess the level of interest in the final, the first Test match to be staged on neutral territory since Australia played South Africa in England 37 years ago. On the previous occasion, the organisers grossly overestimated demand to watch foreign teams in direct opposition. Ridiculous as it now seems, the failure of the 1912 experiment — which was won by England, due largely to the

bowling of Sydney Barnes — even caused worry among administrators that the first World Cup would prove a similar flop some 63 years later.

This time, the portents are more auspicious. Television here is still re-running highlights — and there are many — of the recent, thrilling series between India and Pakistan, while the feat of Anil Kumble in taking ten wickets in an innings in Delhi continues to feature prominently in the newspapers. Despite another high-profile security operation, which Indian authorities seem to relish, the demand for tickets in Dalmiya's home city of Calcutta is likely to ensure crowds of around 70,000 each day.

# Bowlers toil for scant rewards

WELLINGTON (second day of three): Wellington Emerging Players, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 138 runs behind England Under-19

DEPLETED as they are by injury and compassionate leave, England Under-19 could have done without this long, hot day (John Stern writes). As Wellington progressed to 282 for four — in reply to England's 420 — there was a weary look about England in the field. Tim Aldis, 19, an all-rounder from Devon, was drafted in. He was one of seven bowlers used on a sapping day.

The four players who were not fit for this game, including Michael Gough, the captain, should all be available for the decisive third international against New Zealand on Thursday and Richard Logan has returned after his mother's funeral.

# Zimbabwe fall to spin partnership

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN BULAWAYO

BULAWAYO (final day of five): England A beat Zimbabwe A by 193 runs

ONCE again, it is to the A tour that eyes must turn to witness English success abroad. As the senior team were enduring their final capitulation in Melbourne, England A were in the process of completing an emphatic 193-run victory over Zimbabwe A in the second international match here.

In ten years of A tours, only one series has been lost, to West Indies in 1991-92. The latest instalment came when, given the entire final day to take the remaining seven Zimbabwe A wickets, the match was concluded in the last over before tea. Graeme Swann and Dean Cusker each took four wickets, wearing down a resistance that extended to a stubborn last-wicket partnership of 16 overs.

It was a final day not without incident, however. The home side were convinced that two umpiring decisions went firmly against them, the second a freak dismissal when Trevor Gripper pulled Cusker on to Robert Key at short leg only for Darren Maddy, at silly point, to catch the rebound. Andy Whittall, the Zimbabwe A captain, pointed to a lack of experience at playing the longer version of the game for his side's performance. He was impressed, however, with the batting of Love and Vaughan and singled out Andrew Flintoff for his contribution in both matches.

"We thought he might succumb to a bit of pressure in the first match in Harare, but he reacted brilliantly to it," Whittall said. "He obviously has bundles of talent."

# South Africa humbled by Astle show

NATHAN ASTLE scored 95 to lead New Zealand to a three-wicket win over South Africa in the first of their six-match series of one-day internationals at Carisbrook in Dunedin.

New Zealand reached 215 for seven with five balls to spare after bowling out the visitors for 211. Jacques Kallis scored 100 for South Africa, but their innings floundered with Geoff Allott claiming four for 35.

New Zealand slipped to 74 for four after 17 overs before Astle and Matthew Bell, who made 57, combined for a 90-run stand that put the side back on top.

# Golmard collects first title as Kiefer capitulates

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN DUBAI

WELL, at least it may make Tim Henman feel a little better — the man who beat him at the Dubai Open went on to win the title. Jerome Golmard, the world No 61, won his first career title last night by defeating Nicolas Kiefer 6-4, 6-2, earning himself a neat \$142,000 and, rather more importantly, breaking into the world's top 40 for the first time.

In the end, the final proved to be the easiest night's work against the lower-ranked player that Golmard had faced all week. To get so far, he had to push past Karol Kucera, Henman and Carlos Moya, the world No 2.

After that little group, Kiefer was a simple test. Helped by the fact that the German had worked a double shift yesterday, having to finish his rain-delayed semi-final with Andrew Ilie at lunchtime, Golmard was in control from the start.

At first glance, Kiefer appears to be a dead ringer for Andre Agassi. He sports a similar hairstyle, a similar goatee beard and has a waddling walk in much the same fashion as the former world No 1. And, like Agassi, he was the crowd's favourite.

The only voices shouting for Golmard were a group of off-duty ball boys, but they were interested only in a cheering competition with the Kiefer supporters. Last night, unfortunately, he also showed the worst of Agassi's characteristics, appearing to go through the motions as the match moved increasingly from his grasp. He dropped his service for the first time in the fifth game, a double fault giving Golmard the lead, and never looked likely to get back into the match.

The only time that he held a break point against the Golmard service was when the Frenchman was serving for the first set. Not that it was any cause for concern — Golmard simply changed his tactics, headed for the net and brushed aside the challenge.

That was more than enough to break Kiefer's spirit. His service disintegrated as he double-faulted his way to disaster at the start of the second set. Matching his aces with double faults, he dropped his service again to go 3-2 down.

Not even then did the crowd notice the Frenchman. As Golmard held three match points, a voice yelled "you've come back before", encouragement that pushed Kiefer to wallop his next return wide and give Golmard the title.



Kiefer: tame surrender

# Smith hits hard on his return

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

OLD Loughionians, reinforced by Scott Smith, their Canadian centre forward, secured maximum points from two high-scoring National League premier division matches over the weekend. Smith scored two goals in a 6-5 away victory over Canterbury yesterday, adding to the three that he scored at home against East Grinstead, who were beaten 5-4 on Saturday.

Sean Kerly, the Canterbury manager, was disappointed but not despondent. "We had the game in our hands and threw it away," he said. "After building a 3-1 lead, we started giving the ball away in the middle of the pitch and paid a heavy price."

Kerly praised Triggs for some splendid goalkeeping. Triggs rescued Canterbury by saving a penalty stroke from Garrard in the first half of their away match on Saturday against Teddington, who held Canterbury to a 1-1 draw.

Cannock were restricted to a 1-0 win over Beeston on Saturday, but they took over the leadership of the division after a 3-1 away victory over Brooklands yesterday.

Jennings scored his 200th league goal when he netted the second of his three goals for Guildford in a 7-1 home victory over Southgate on Saturday. However, Guildford were halted in their tracks yesterday by Hounslow, who picked up a valuable point at home in a 3-3 draw. Nurse scored all three Hounslow goals. Robinson hit the target twice for Reading, who drew 2-2 with Teddington, while Surblin trounced Hampton 8-0 to stay on top of the first division.

# Clifton dig deep for vital wins

BY CATHY HARRIS

CLIFTON recovered from conceding two early goals to reach the quarter-finals of the EHA Cup when they defeated Ipswich in a sudden-death penalty shoot-out after the sides were level 2-2 at full time.

The result sealed a successful weekend double for the Bristol-based Cup-holders, who also ended Ipswich's unbeaten run in the premier division on Saturday.

Tammy Miller, the Clifton captain, said that the team's league display was their best performance of the season. "It was important to know we can win crunch games and a great lesson for the younger players," she said. "We showed a lot of mental toughness to come back."

Shelly Pleasance, the left winger, gave Ipswich the perfect start with two deft strikes inside the opening 20 minutes. Sandie Lister, the captain, who hobbled off with a thigh strain in the second half, glanced on Kirsten Spencer's free hit for the first and Jo Ellis set up the second after a break down the right.

Lucy Newcombe reduced the deficit 12 minutes before the interval after a goalmouth scramble before Denise Marston-Smith brought the scores level in the 57th minute. After the first round of penalties finished level at 2-2, Marston-Smith made no mistake to put Clifton through. Despite their league defeat, Ipswich stay on top of the table ahead of Slough, the champions, with Clifton and Highbury consolidating their positions in the top four play-off positions. Highbury and Slough also advanced to the quarter-finals of the cup.

Richard wary of obstacle to come

Scottish perform



## Allied Dunbar Premiership: Leicester leap sizeable hurdle and will not rest on their laurels

## Richards wary of obstacles to come

Leicester.....31  
London Irish.....10

BY DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THERE will be no euphoria at Leicester after Saturday. If Dean Richards does not succeed in keeping feet firmly on the ground, the Five Nations Championship will do it for him because it will force the Allied Dunbar Premiership leaders to regroup and realign as players return from international duty in a month's time, when Leicester renew their march towards the title.

Richards, the team manager, will stress the difficulties that lie ahead, at Northampton. Bath and Newcastle, and when Saracens visit Welford Road. He will reiterate the demands for self-discipline that he made at the start of the season, which must include, surely, a stern lecture to Austin Healey, whose casually flicked boot forced Kevin Putt off the field for treatment and, if spotted, might have earned the scrum half a red card.

Should London Irish choose to make more of the incident than Putt was inclined to, it could cost Healey his place in the England squad. Dick Best, the club's director of rugby, watched the video yesterday and will make an announcement today once he has spoken to Richards. Best is clearly unhappy at what occurred, but, deep down, Leicester will be hugging themselves for so significant a win against a London Irish team who have taken the first division by storm. The Irish pride themselves

on their defence, but Leicester's tackle-count, well in excess of a hundred, was almost double that of the visitors and threw a blanket over the most potent attacking force that the Premiership has seen in the past three months.

Twice the Irish pierced it, both times through Brendan Venter, who might have had ten minutes in the sin-bin himself for a stiff arm thrown out as Craig Joiner came stepping inside him in the opening minutes. Venter, who has asked for a decision on his future by the end of this month, scored the visitors' only try, then watched his colleagues squander another that might have brought the Irish within a converted try of their opponents and opened up the game.

"We understand people will make us favourites for the title now, but we are taking nothing for granted," Richards said. He dismisses the six-point lead Leicester have opened on Northampton, with seven matches remaining, but Best was more candid. "The title is in Leicester's hands," he said. "They have magnificent forwards and incisive backs. They did to us what we have done to so many others this season — put us under pressure and forced errors."

The Irish might have profited if their half backs had kicked more in the hope of winning territory, yet the failure of the lineup limited their ability to play the sidelines. In the absence of the injured Malcolm O'Kelly, Leicester stole four Irish throws — the last led directly to a late try by Leon Lloyd — and turned as many again into dross for Putt.



Healey, the Leicester scrum half, fields the ball on his own try line to prevent Woods from scoring at Welford Road

It was a wonderful exhibition of controlled forward play, backed by Joel Stranksy's six penalty goals from six attempts, and the size of Leicester's task had eased by half-time as the Irish achieved the equivalent of rugby suicide — "mindless" in the eyes of Best — by straying offside in mid-field time and again.

Leicester probed thoughtfully, asking questions in the mid-field, varying their plays from lineouts, then springing the venomous David Loughhead on the Irish. The Canadian wing, from the blind side, brushed off Robert Todd and left Venter and Stephen Bachop in his wake as he cantered to his sixth try in his tenth Premiership appearance.

Having run through Stranksy for the Irish try, Venter opened up the midfield, but

Bachop, of all people, ran his support into touch when a try loomed for the elusive Justin Bishop. It was the wake-up call that Leicester, cheered to the echo by a crowd of 14,500, needed: desperate defence by Bachop and Neil Hayley stopped Neil Back at the corner, the prelude to ten successive scrums on the Irish line, from which Leicester should have sewed up the match.

It is testimony to the Irish tight forwards that they held out and eventually won a penalty, but the initiative had swung Leicester's way. Tim Simpkinson, who needs these understated, though effective, scrums on the Irish line, from which Leicester should have sewed up the match.

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## Cardiff pay the price

BATH snatched Gareth Cooper, the Wales Under-21 scrum half, from under Cardiff's noses last summer and he showed on Saturday what the Welsh side missed with a brilliant opportunity to try to put his side 25-10 ahead. Although Cardiff replied with three second-half tries, they were always behind and eventually went down to a 44-32 defeat, the heaviest in the Anglo-Welsh series.

Bath, who had Matt Perry to thank for some pinpoint place-kicking, were quick to punish sloppy Cardiff defending, especially in the last quarter when both wings — Adedayo, with two, and Tindall — scored tries.

got France out of his system with a virtuoso performance, masterminding the move that pulled Gloucester to shreds and saw Gareth Llewellyn gallop in for 30 metres for his side's final try.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Tries: Ben (10m), penalty try (17). Gloucester: 44-32. Cardiff: Tries: Tindall (2), Adedayo (2), Tindall (1). Cardiff: 32-44. Referee: D. Hughes (Manchester).

## Bedford bury the demons

Bedford.....25  
Wasps.....23

BY MICHAEL AXELWIN

YET more evidence of the fluctuating nature of the Allied Dunbar Premiership was forthcoming at Goldington Road on Saturday. Having just inflicted a record defeat on Bath, Wasps were beaten by Bedford, who had not won a league game since October 10 and were beaten by Bath only three weeks ago.

It has been growing increasingly painful this season to watch Bedford play with such spirit and adventure, yet persistently fall short of a win. On Saturday, their season continued in the same vein on the first count, but, on this occasion, they finally managed to clinch the two points.

One feared the worst for them as the clock ticked into the ninth minute of injury time and Wasps were awarded a string of penalties. Bedford, however, succeeded in consummating their lead, which they had established in the fifth minute, with victory. The game hung in the balance until the very end, but Bedford were due a change in fortune.

Wasps held the advantage at half-time, but another sparkling Bedford try from Stewart and a drop goal from Howard in the third quarter forced Wasps into catch-up mode. King had the chance to win the game for Wasps with a late 35-metre penalty goal, but, with the boots of a 3,440 crowd ringing in his ears, the young fly half pushed his kick wide.

"Today, we're smiling," Rudi Strauhal, the Bedford coach, said. "It's important to remember the joy of winning. I think I'd forgotten how it feels."

SCORERS: Bedford: Tries: Richards (4m), Underwood (5m), Bennett (5m). Bedford: 25-23. Wasps: Tries: Howard (11m), Stewart (11m). Wasps: 23-25. Referee: H. Jones (London).

## Hill's plans ignored by Harlequins

Gloucester.....20  
Harlequins.....31

BY MARK SOUSTER

RICHARD HILL wants more time. Whether his wish will be granted, only Tom Walkinshaw knows. After their ninth consecutive defeat by Harlequins, whom they meet again in the quarter-finals of the Tetley's Bitter Cup at the end of the month, Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, realises that time may not be on his side.

If Hill could wave a magic wand, Gloucester would be a team bursting with England talent, competing at the top end of the Allied Dunbar Premiership. Although he is adamant that Walkinshaw, the owner, shares his long-term vision, he also accepts that pressure to achieve results is immense.

Hill has outlined his dream in a five-year plan with which, he says, Walkinshaw had concurred. It paints a stark picture of an apocalyptic meltdown in the English game this summer, from which only the well-managed and well-resourced clubs will survive as professional entities. He expects Gloucester to be among them.

Hill's problems at the moment are fairly basic and reflect on him as much as the players. The defensive alignment was shocking, so much so that the Phil Larder, England's defence guru, will be called in as soon as possible. The quality of passing among the three-quarters was abject, the recycling of possession painfully slow at times. Only Trevor Woodman and Steve Ojomoh looked convincing.

Harlequins could afford to give Gloucester a ten-point start through a Mapletree penalty and a neatly executed try by Ben. They were also able to concoct a contentious penalty try and the bulk of possession, but still run out more than comfortable winners. This, despite the loss, after only three minutes, of Thierry Lacroix, with a torn hamstring, in his comeback game after recovering from concussion.

As always, Keith Wood led by example. The indefatigable Ireland hooker got France out of his system with a virtuoso performance, masterminding the move that pulled Gloucester to shreds and saw Gareth Llewellyn gallop in for 30 metres for his side's final try.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Tries: Ben (10m), penalty try (17). Gloucester: 20-31. Harlequins: Tries: O'Leary (30), Wray (43), Llewellyn (65). Gloucester: 20-31. Referee: D. Hughes (Manchester).

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## Scottish refuse to perform in exile

London Scottish.....27  
Newcastle Falcons.....17

BY MARK BALDWIN

MIRACLE is hardly too strong a word for it. London Scottish, facing a Bristol buy-out, existing on borrowed money, borrowed time and with negligible home support, continue to grow stronger the longer that this arduous Allied Dunbar Premiership season goes on.

John Steele, the Exiles' director of rugby, spoke of his respect for "the dignity and concentration" of his players after another big scalp was taken on Saturday. Newcastle, themselves suddenly riven by the uncertainties that churn the crazy world of English club rugby, went the way of Bath, Saracens and Gloucester as Scottish reaffirmed their seemingly unquenchable spirit.

Scottish, with five wins from their past nine league and cup matches, scored four tries before Newcastle could reply. Jannie de Beer, their gifted

## Sale unable to capitalise on Richmond injury woe

Richmond.....29  
Sale.....24

BY ALAN PEAREY

GRAHAM HENRY, the Wales coach, had hoped to see Craig Quinnett put through his paces yesterday, ahead of the international against Ireland on Saturday. Instead, Quinnett failed to start and Henry's troubles were compounded by the loss of Allan Bateman, the Wales centre, who hobbled off after 40 minutes with a pulled hamstring.

In a week that had seen Richmond docked two points and a wasted trip to Newcastle, they at last profited from some good fortune. Sale were pressing hard at the close, but Shane Howard's knock-on was one error too far and the Lancastrians' losing sequence was extended to a club-record seven matches.

It was hard to believe that Sale arrived at the Madejski Stadium on the back of such a wretched form, at least on the evidence of the first 20 minutes. But for poor finishing, they could have been out of sight. After a try by Steve Hanley, Kevin Ellis darted for the line, ignoring a three-man overlap, then Jim Mallinder, the full back, could not hold the ball with the line at his mercy. Mallinder's dismay was alleviated when Howard scored under the posts.

Just before half-time, Austin Pichot put Richmond within a point with a marvellous solo try, gathering his own chip over a startled defence.

## Ilkeston eye Twickenham

Ilkeston.....42  
Driffield.....15

BY BARRY TROWBRIDGE

THE "craic" at The Stute for this NPI Cup quarter-final on Saturday was as good as it gets in junior club rugby; to most spectators' delight, Ilkeston's performance matched it.

Elk's Head Bitter, "brewed exclusively for Ilkeston RUCFC" by Castle Rock Brewery at nearby Nottingham, at a mere £1.30 a pint, no doubt

enlivened the atmosphere and the resultant banter in the crowd was a match for the best, but it was on the field that Ilkeston, from Midlands II East, were to be judged and, to everyone's satisfaction, they proved themselves wholeheartedly.

For Driffield, who beat the then unbeaten Northern in the fifth round, their margin of defeat was flattering. With five minutes to play, the score, quite justifiably, read 42-3 and Driffield, who play their league rugby in North II, a level higher than Ilkeston's, could claim only three excursions to their opponents' 22.

## Soaring Swansea hit new heights

Swansea.....58  
Northampton.....24

BY GERALD DAVIES

SWANSEA are playing wonderful rugby at present. They are beginning to attain the elusive convergence that brings together the practical matter of winning matches while at the same time satisfying the desire to entertain.

The quality of their passing gave not only an exciting rhythm to this match but rendered an enticing promise of the potential of the Swansea team. On recent evidence, they are lifting Welsh rugby to a level that no one can match.

That their ground is in such grand playing condition does help. While other pitches have been reduced, because of rain and snow, to something resembling agriculture, Swansea, St Helen's is almost pristine in its greenness.

John Plumtree, the Swansea coach, is raising his sights beyond the immediate quality of his opponents. Beating the opposition is not the only measurement. He sets his own standards and assesses the possibilities that the game affords for his players to fulfil their personal capabilities. Swansea may still be a long way off from that which Plumtree wishes, but the club is on the right path.

## Diprose shines as distracted West lose way

Saracens.....48  
West Hartlepool.....27

BY DAVID HANDS

THE sight on Saturday of leading teams such as Wasps and Newcastle lapsing so badly may have acted as a spur to Saracens at Vicarage Road yesterday. At times, they looked nothing like a club preparing to rejoin the top three in the first division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership; at others, they ran lowly West Hartlepool ragged.

West, like so many others, have commercial matters as close to their hearts as playing issues. All the talk last week was of the possible merger of their club with Newcastle, as a consequence of the proposed withdrawal of Cameron Hall Developments from the funding of the champions, but Andy Hindle, the West chairman, believes that any such moves are unlikely before the end of the season.

For all that a business consortium, fronted by Paul Mackings, who represents West in English First-Division Rugby, is said to be a saving prospect, there will be no developments until the Newcastle Gosforth Shareholders' Association has decided what will happen to the 76 per cent shareholding of Cameron Hall. "We can't do anything legally until that happens," Hindle said, "but there has to be some sense in a super club for the North East."

So far as West's playing staff are concerned, this is only the latest round of a season in which the playing structure seemed likely to leave them behind before pay and staff cuts physically did leave some West players behind. "My philosophy is to wait and see," Philippe Parner, the West captain, said with admirably Gallic fatalism.

## Bracken sprints clear on his way to scoring Saracens' third try yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

SCORERS: Saracens: Tries: Parner (5m), Diprose (5m), Bracken (5m). Saracens: 48-27. West Hartlepool: Tries: Parner (5m), Diprose (5m), Bracken (5m). West Hartlepool: 27-48. Referee: D. Hughes (Manchester).

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# Schumacher — genius or cheat?

He was the first in modern era to pay such attention to detail

However much controversy hangs around Michael Schumacher and whatever trouble he might get into with his reactions, one thing is undeniable: he is the best racing driver in the world.

The Argentine Grand Prix of 1998 had all the elements of a classic Schumacher victory: an inferior car driven to the limit with a clever and aggressive strategy, a controversial collision with David Coulthard and that bit of magic, a mesmerising stint after Ross Brawn, the Ferrari technical director, had come on the radio to say: "Michael, we need you to make up 12 seconds in five laps, please."

To illustrate the consistency of his pace, Eddie Irvine, his team-mate, driving a similar car, was almost a minute behind at the end.

"Only Michael can do this," Jean Todt, the team manager, said, and he was right. There have been plenty of talented drivers in Formula One, but only a handful who could win a race with a car that does not deserve to win. Senna and Prost did it many times and perhaps half of Schumacher's victories have come that way.

Like a great soccer player who can make time for himself on the ball, part of Schumacher's mental capacity is saved for dealing with the variables and uncertainties of the game. Perhaps this is why Gianni Agnelli, the patriarch of Fiat, calls Schumacher "the Pelé of Formula One".

It was an astonishing performance in Argentina, made all the more thrilling by a moment, five laps from the end of the race, when his Ferrari slipped off into a gravel trap. Amazingly, Schumacher knew the layout of this trap, having watched Johnny Herbert get stuck in it during practice.

Also, on the Sunday morning, as he toured slowly around the circuit during the drivers' parade, he had made his customary mental notes of the position of the Tyrrell perimeter roads around the traps so that, when his Ferrari slid off, Schumacher kept his nerve and steered to where he knew there was a solid landing. It sounds simple, but few would be so well-organised and even fewer could think logically at that speed.

It was not the first or last time that Schumacher had made a mistake while pushing hard in the lead of a race. Brawn said: "In Minaco, he was leading when he hit a puddle on the pit straight and locked a wheel. It was more logical to him to go straight on down the escape road rather than try to make the corner and run the risk of hitting the barrier. Not many drivers would have known where the escape road was."

But what makes him so



good? To begin with, his foundations are good: he always learns from experience, so that, as he gets older, he has a huge reserve to dip into.

He has an excellent memory and can recall details of chassis set-up, race strategy or even a random lap time from years before. Add to that an uncluttered mind, which allows him to think quickly and identify the root of a problem.

He is extremely fit and never gets tired, no matter how gruelling or hot the conditions. He has good reflexes and a unique ability to drive every corner of every lap flat out.

Pat Symonds, now technical director at Benetton, was Schumacher's race engineer when he won his two world titles. "He was the first driver of the modern era who had this incredible attention to detail," he said. "A lot of drivers just drive round and, if they go faster, don't know why or how they did it. Michael always knows why he was faster."

Winning against superior machinery requires something special and it is fair to say that Schumacher has never had the best car in Formula One. Stirling Moss, one of Britain's greatest drivers, says: "He's head and shoulders above the opposition."

Luca Di Montezemolo, the Ferrari chairman, claims: "Without Michael Schumacher, this would be a world championship of taxi drivers." The man who knows Schumacher, the racing driver, best in that context is Brawn, who says: "Michael is one of my heroes. It's a tragedy that he is misunderstood the way that he is. He had some great races in 1997 and 1998. Ferrari and Michael have been the only ones to make something of the championship. If Michael had not been around, you would have had two really tedious years, so when people are stabbing him, they should think about what he has brought to the sport."



Eyes of the tiger: Schumacher looks towards increased success on the Formula One circuit

His brilliance is widely acknowledged but so is his poor sportsmanship and his ruthlessness

Acad reputation: the easiest thing to acquire and the hardest to shake off. Before the start of the 1995 season, Schumacher hired Heine Buchinger as his press agent because he had gained such a reputation during 1994 and wanted to be rid of it. The German press had nicknamed him "Schumel Schumi" and he hated it. Roughly translated, *schumel* is halfway between crafty and cheat, an uncomfortable grey area which has the advantage of being suggestive without being libellous.

In 1994, Benetton came under intense scrutiny and allegations of cheating surfaced on several occasions. The team was fined heavily and Schumacher was disqualified twice and banned from two races. His season ended when he collided with Damon Hill, some felt deliberately, to collect the world championship. "Schumel Schumi" was born.

Another contributing factor to the "Schumel Schumi" tag was Michael's performance at Silverstone, where he overtook Hill, who had gained pole position, on the parade lap, a rather lame attempt at a psychotrick on his rival and an offence.

Nevertheless, he won the world championship despite participating in just 12 of 16 races and his many brilliant drives had laid down a marker for the future. Here was a natural successor to Ayrton Senna, not just in terms of his talent but in his win-at-all-costs approach to racing. Schumel Schumi, on-the-edge Schumi, clever Schumi, don't-get-caught Schumi.

Michael had realised he would never truly be free of the "Schumel Schumi" tag as long as he stayed at Benetton. Willi Weber, Schumacher's manager, had no shortage of offers for 1996 and beyond. As well as the huge salary, the chance to go to Ferrari offered something special: making Ferrari great again. Winning the championship with them after two decades in the doldrums would obliterate any stains that the 1994 season may have left on his reputation.

The image captured the public imagination, as did many of his sublime victories against superior machinery. Over two seasons, Schumacher rose head and shoulders above the opposition, but after the 1997 European Grand Prix, at Jerez, everything he had worked towards was destroyed by a split second of madness. So much had been riding on the result at Jerez, where Schumacher had to win the last race of the championship to take the title from Jacques Villeneuve.

Ferrari were ready to trumpet the success of their \$100 million investment. All the sponsors were poised to go with adverts celebrating their role in the team's glory. Fiat, Philip Morris and Shell had all pumped in huge amounts of money and were just 20 laps from reaping their rewards.

In the back of Schumacher's mind all week-end was one thought: if Jacques Villeneuve finishes in front of me, the championship is gone. Suddenly, the Canadian was alongside him.

Two-tenths of a second passed between his initial realisation of this — marked by an instinctive turn of the wheel to the left, away from the path of the Williams — and the second, sharper turn to the right, the one which sought to eliminate the predator, the one that screamed to the watching millions: I must win at all costs.

Two-tenths of a second decided a world championship, two turns of a steering wheel condemned a great champion. Schumacher climbed out of the Ferrari and trudged through the sand to safety. No athlete looks more forlorn than a racing driver removed from the action.

He stands and watches. Three years earlier he had stood like this, waiting to see whether Hill's Williams would come round again after their collision in Adelaide. It had not reappeared and then one of the marshals had told him that Hill was out of his car. He hadn't known how to react then and his face betrayed a confused mixture of all the emotions he thought a new champion should display. Now, his face showed no emotion at all as Villeneuve's car passed by again and again.

There is little doubt that if Schumacher had followed old-

'So much pain and damage could have been avoided'

fashioned sporting etiquette rather than his own instincts and made a public show of congratulation to Villeneuve as he climbed from his car, so much pain and damage would have been avoided and the whole chain of events, which caused the greatest driver of his generation to fall from grace, would probably never have happened.

Max Mosley, president of the FIA, Formula One's ruling body, had addressed the drivers before the race, warning them that they would face the severest penalties if they employed any dirty tricks to win the championship.

The FIA's penalty on Schumacher was extremely severe and the history of the sport will show that Schumacher, whatever records he goes on to break, however many wins he may accrue, however much glory he might bring to Ferrari and however great a legend he might leave behind him, was the first man to be thrown out for attempting to foul an opponent. Far from being a slap on the wrist, it was a permanent stain on his character as a sportsman.

According to Clay Regazzoni, a former Ferrari driver: "He drives with arrogance and thinks he is a demi-god. He wants to humiliate his rivals, not just beat them." And Jackie Stewart, three times the world champion, says: "Michael is the best driver but he has something I don't think is healthy. He has something I never had. Real champions don't have to bully."

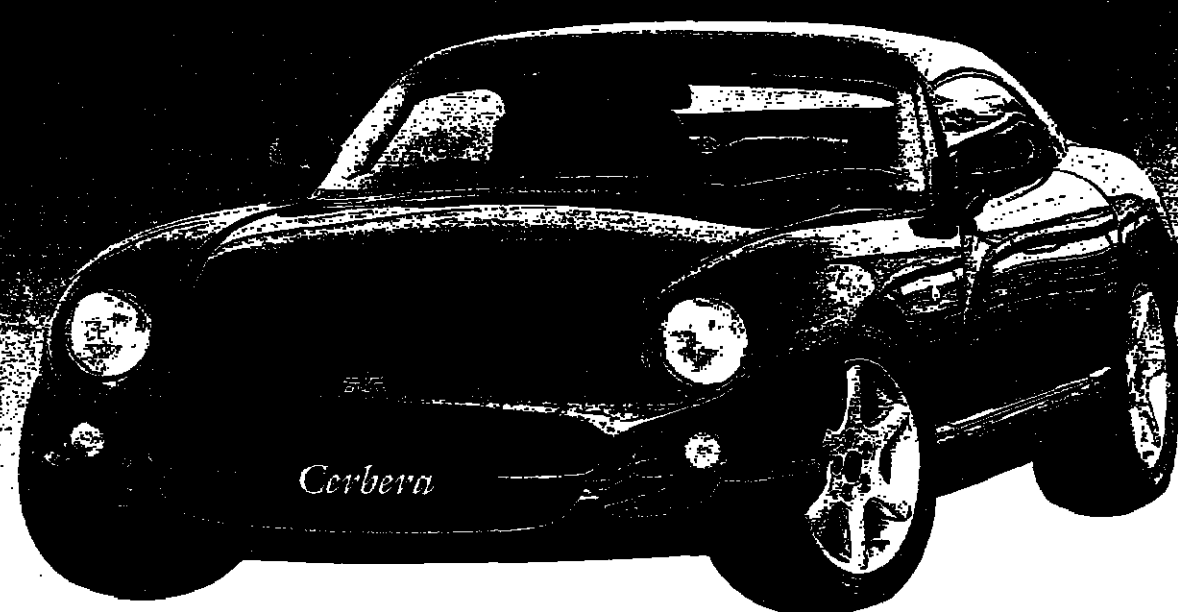
But Jean Todt, the Ferrari team manager, summed him up differently: "We should all remember that, for all his capabilities, Michael is only human and makes mistakes. He overreacted due to a lack of time to think about it and he said things that he shouldn't have said. But perhaps it was my fault too. Perhaps we at Ferrari should have helped him at that difficult moment. But I think we forgot that with all his ability, he was still just a 29-year-old youngster."

Michael always knows why he was faster

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### TITLES AND TRIUMPHS



Prize guy: Schumacher celebrates one of his 33 wins

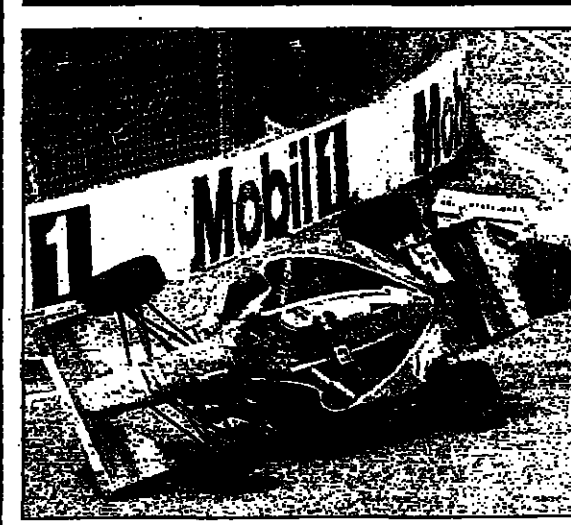
MICHAEL SCHUMACHER is the most successful Formula One driver of his generation but how does he compare to the two modern greats Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost? Schumacher may have won fewer pole positions but he is acknowledged to have driven the best car on the grid. The Benetton that gave him the first of his world championships in 1994 was regarded as inferior to the Williams that year and so was his Ferrari behind McLaren last season, when he came so close to beating Mika Hakkinen to the title.

By contrast, Senna and Prost drove for a dominant McLaren team, culminating in the 1988 season when, as team-mates, they won 15 of 16 races. Their ratio of victories-to-races contested is slightly higher than Schumacher's — but only just.

### HOW THEY COMPARE

**MICHAEL SCHUMACHER:** Grands prix: 118. Pole positions: 20. Wins: 33. World championships: 2. Win ratio: 3.57.  
**AYRTON SENNA:** Grands prix: 161. Pole positions: 65. Wins: 41. World championships: 3. Win ratio: 3.50.  
**ALAIN PROST:** Grands prix: 199. Pole positions: 33. Wins: 51. World championships: 4. Win ratio: 3.90.

### CLASHES AND CONTROVERSIES



Fatal attraction: the title is decided at Adelaide in 1994

1991: Michael Schumacher joins Jordan but switches to Benetton after one race after a legal challenge from the fitted Eddie Jordan.

1994: Becomes world champion amid allegations that his car was equipped with illegal traction control device.

1994: Disqualified from British Grand Prix after overtaking pole position car of Damon Hill on parade lap and ignored subsequent black flag penalty.

1994: Disqualified from Belgian Grand Prix, banned for two races after skid block of his Benetton was found to be illegal.

1994: Crashes into hill at decisive final race in Australia to win title with eight victories from 16 races.

1997: Disqualified from the championship, his second place expunged from the records for driving into eventual winner, Jacques Villeneuve, at the deciding European Grand Prix in Jerez in a desperate effort to cling on to his title hopes.

1998: Second in world championship with six victories.

1998: Accuses Hill of "trying to kill him" in Canada and forces Heinz-Harald Frentzen off the circuit, provoking a protest from the Williams team.

1998: Wins British Grand Prix sitting in the pits after failing to stop for 10-second penalty.

1998: Storms into McLaren garage to accuse David Coulthard of "trying to kill him" after running into the rear of the Scot's car in Belgium.



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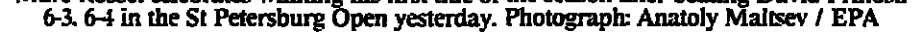
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TODAY

TOMORROW

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

End of Appeal

Protecting p

Pre-trial action







**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible][illegible]

THE FACTS

THE BOARD

1992

10/10/10

1980

10

Shoreva

100-443887-100

11

100

100



## THE FACTS

Net asset value: £5,001 billion (at March 31 1998)  
Net rental income: £414 million  
Pre-tax profits: £266 million  
Market capitalisation: £4.48 billion  
Employees: 577  
Business: The company specialises in the development and ownership on commercial, industrial and retail property

## THE BOARD

Land Securities has a long-serving board and most executive directors have been with the company since the early 1970s. Ian Henderson, 54, chief executive, joined the company at the age of 26. He has been on the board since 1987 and became managing director in December 1997.

James Murray, 51, finance director, joined 18 years ago and was appointed to the board in 1990. He is a member of the technical committee of The Hundred Group.

Peter Birch, 60, became non-executive chairman in July last year, four months after standing down as chief executive of Abbey National. He is also chairman of Trinity International and a director of N M Rothschild.

Michael Griffiths, 53, was appointed to the board in 1990 and has been working for the company for 25 years. He is responsible for Central London as well as project management.

Kelth Redshaw, 52, has been with the company for 29 years and on the board for nine. He is a past president of the British Council of Shopping Centres and is now responsible for the retail portfolio and for properties outside London.

John Hall, 72, a non-executive director, was made deputy chairman 22 years ago and was chairman for eight months until July last year. He was a director of Legal & General and Lucas until 1990 and is deputy chairman of the Takeover Panel.

Peter Hardy, 59, has been a non-executive for the past seven years. He is a director of Kingfisher, Howard de Walden Estates and Barnardos.

Conservative, worthy and dull — words people use to describe Land Securities and the choice of adjective depends on the affection in which Britain's largest quoted property company is held by the speaker.

Land Securities prides itself on its conservatism — it has had no disasters, no dividend cuts. Unlike scores of heavily indebted rivals, it rode through the property crash relatively unscathed, suffering only the hangover of buildings rented at peak rates in the late 1980s leading to a period of nil growth. Conservatism saved Land Securities from the embarrassment of overdevelopment that plagued MEPC, not to mention the debt crises that brought down Rosehaugh and Stanhope. The virtue of the giant tortoise leaves it today with £6.5 billion in real estate and debts of just £1.5 billion.

But conservatism, as Disraeli observed, can be a barren thing and increasingly, people in the City are whispering that Land Securities has lost direction. It is undergirded at a time when real estate is said to be due for a bond market-induced upward correction. Inflation, once the great rescuer of landed fortunes, is weak and likely to remain so. John Atkins at Commerzbank notes that Land Securities's rating has slipped markedly over the past three months, performing worse than the sector average. In essence, many investors are now plumping for the third option: Land Securities is dull.

It was not always so. The company's reluctance to make grand gestures is attributed to its founder, Harold Samuel (later Lord Samuel of Wych Cross) who paid £20,000 for Land Securities Investment Trust in 1944. It then owned a few houses in Kensington but by the end of 1969 it was already a behemoth of its day with profits of £4 million and a portfolio worth more than £300 million. A glance at the furious pace of activity in those early years suggests that Harry Samuel's conservatism is a myth. It is true that he was conservative about debt, borrowing long and at keen rates to fund his investments.

However, he was aggressive and built up his empire with takeovers, even enjoying a tilt at the Savoy Group. Land Securities built up a share stake in 1953, only to be thwarted when Savoy issued special shares with higher voting powers.

Samuel was forced to concede defeat but Land Securities made a £100,000 profit on its 37 per cent interest. The importance of Harry Samuel to Land Securities is his extraordinary legacy. A guided tour of post-war British urban architecture

## CORPORATE PROFILE: Land Securities



Ian Henderson, chief executive of Land Securities, in his office that overlooks the Strand in London. The company made its name in the postwar boom created by interventionist governments with bureaucracies that needed to be housed. It also worked with local authorities to rebuild bombed-out city centres

would be a depressing experience but you would see much of the work of Samuel and Land Securities. Samuel concluded that the postwar interventionist governments would create huge bureaucracies and he set about housing them.

An early creation was Ravenset Properties, which worked in partnership with local authorities in the 1950s to rebuild bombed-out city centres, creating shopping malls in Hull, Exeter, Plymouth, Bristol and Coventry. At the same time Samuel was snapping up sites in Central London, buying buildings in Berkeley Square, Petty France, Portman Square, Oxford Street and Victoria.

In 1968, Samuel did the biggest property deal of his day, buying City Centre Properties for £155 million. A year later he outbid MEPC, Trafalgar House and Oldham Estates to take control of City of London Real Property Company, bringing

the grim 1960s government office complex of Stag Place in Westminster under his control. Today, the company is assiduously cultivating its extensive gardens, turning up its nose at the hurly-burly dealing world that swirls at its feet.

The man who has inherited Samuel's chief executive mantle is Ian Henderson. He succeeded Sir Peter Hunt, Samuel's protégé and successor, when Sir Peter died suddenly in December 1997.

Mr Henderson has an answer prepared for those who question what the rationale is for such a sprawling property colossus. "This is a mature industry. Our *raison d'être* will become urban regeneration. That is where we have particular expertise." By urban regeneration, he does not mean slum clearance and housing for the poor. Land Securities wants to build better shopping in decaying town centres. It is in line with government policy and all the initiatives aimed at cutting back on the queues of cars streaming into out-of-town malls. It is also a return to the past. He points out that Land Securities was built on sound finance backed with government lettings, urban regeneration and new towns.

Today, the company is rebuilding the decaying town-centre retail precincts of the 1950s and 1960s. Land Securities has a large development programme, part-financed by selective sales of overvalued London office buildings. It is building the Coppergate Centre in York, another retail development in Exeter, and the

second phase of a retail development in Sunderland.

Henderson is a scathing of the big out-of-town malls and plugs the variety on offer in city centres. Few would disagree but will coster town centres make big bucks for Land Securities? One of its schemes in Birmingham, the one million sq ft Martineau Galleries development, is stalled pending resolution of a tussle with Hammerson, which coincidentally plans to redevelop the Bull Ring shopping centre. Two such schemes cannot go ahead at once, not least as they will both be courting the top retailers as tenants. The same old shop multiples that create such dull out-of-town malls.

There is also a touch of self-justification in Land Securities' affection for town centres. Sir Peter, Henderson's predecessor, had the foresight to invest heavily in retail parks, building up probably the largest portfolio in the UK, worth £800 million but he missed out

on the malls. The company spurned an opportunity to take part in John Hall's Metro Centre in Gateshead and has not made its presence felt in bids for big centres.

The Land Securities top brass are well aware of the difficulties ahead. As Jim Murray, finance director, puts it: "If you are looking at 1-2 per cent inflation, you have got to get it right if you want earnings growth."

In Land Securities terms, the traditional response has been to avoid making wrong decisions rather than finding the big bold idea. Land Securities could raise £1 billion tomorrow to fund a big deal but on such a scale mistakes become noticeable and it is scarcely surprising if Mr Henderson and his colleagues prefer to hold on to the cash and redevelop Harry Samuel's well-chosen city centre plots. Unkind commentators suggest that Land Securities is becoming even more of a property civil service.

Land Securities has come to a crossroads, facing a market distrustful of property companies, yet demanding high returns while offering no inflationary palliative. It needs to define its role better but lacking big blots on its copybook, it fears change. As one analyst puts it: "It's like ICI or Sainsbury's, once things start to slip, it is terribly hard to turn round."

Integrity Works, in giving an ethical expression rating of six, says that Land Securities has a business ethics policy and a supporting framework. However it may need to consider publishing its ethical expression more vigorously to meet present day calls for greater and greater transparency.

Crisp Consulting gives the company a fat cat rating of ten out of ten. It says that given his experience and the company's profile, Ian Henderson's pay of £343,000 is well below the £1 million plus found in comparable FTSE 100 companies. The non-executive directors are similarly underpaid.

## THE VERDICT

Ethical expression: 6/10  
Fat-cat quotient: 10/10  
Financial record: 6/10  
Share performance: 5/10  
Attitude to staff: 8/10  
Strength of brand: 4/10  
Innovation: 3/10  
Annual report: 10/10  
City star rating: 3/10  
Future prospects: 5/10  
Total: 60/100  
Ethical expression is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practices scores highest, is provided by Crisp Consulting.

CARL MORTISHED

## Shorewood reviews bid for Field

BY OUR CITY STAFF

INVESTORS in Field Group could learn today whether America's Shorewood will increase the value of its bid for the UK packaging company.

The Shorewood board is expected to meet today after Friday's increased £218 million takeover bid for Field by Chesapeake, a US rival.

Chesapeake's first bid for Field, recommended by the board of the UK company in January, was worth 320p a share. This was trumped by Shorewood, with an offer

worth 350p. The latest offer from Chesapeake is worth 360p a share, a premium of 39 per cent to the Field share price before the bid battle began.

Frank Knight, chairman of Field, said the board was unanimous in recommending acceptance of Chesapeake's improved terms. However, it is possible that Shorewood may yet return with a counterbid this week.

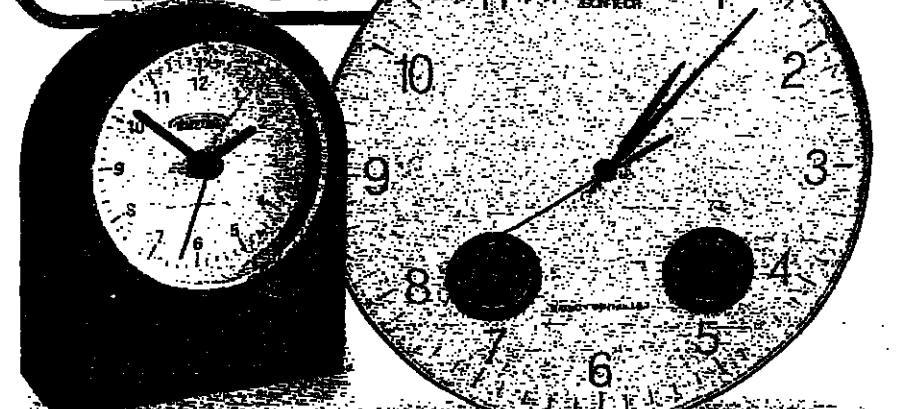
Field, which specialises in printed folding cartons, saw its shares plunge late last year after a profit warning. In 1998 the shares traded as low as 145p.

## READER OFFER

## THE TIMES

## Precision clocks

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CHANGING TIMES

## CHANGE ON WEEK

US Dollar 1.6293 (-0.0091)  
Euro 0.6924 (+0.0036)  
Exchange index 100.2 (-0.5)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

## STOCK MARKET

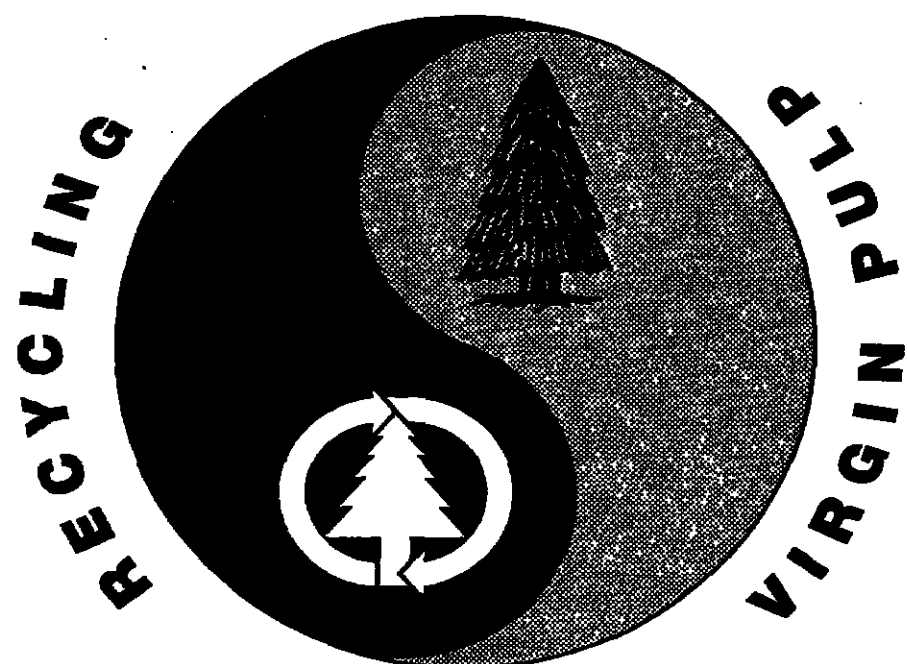
FT 30 share 3629.3 (+28.3)  
FTSE 100 5950.7 (+95.4)  
New York Dow Jones 9274.89 (-29.35)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 13973.69 (+75.61)

## EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.51	2.44
Austria Sch	20.91	19.25
Belgium Fr	61.57	66.61
Canada Cdn	2.546	2.558
Denmark Kr	0.8829	0.8114
Spain Ptas	11.36	10.48
Finland Mk	5.94	5.94
France Fr	9.15	8.40
Germany DM	9.16	9.16
Greece Dr	2.983	2.751
Italy Lira	492	453
Hong Kong \$	13.48	12.23
India Rupee	127	107
Indonesia Rp	17880	12680
Ireland P	1.1941	1.051
Israel Sh	6.96	6.90
Japan Yen	2977	2740
Netherlands Gld	201.09	183.56
New Zealand \$	252.28	233.49
Norway Kr	3.80	3.095
Portugal Esc	302.67	280.64
Spain Ptas	3.11	2.87
S Africa Rd	10.52	9.56
Sweden Kr	13.66	12.56
Switzerland Fr	2.455	2.247
Taiwan Nts	57.1324	53.850
USA \$	1.733	1.590

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

## Newspaper...



## ... a harmonious balance

Newspapers and magazines can be recycled to provide secondary fibre to make more newspapers. But recycling depends on a constant supply of new fibres.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE USE OF RAW MATERIALS IN THE NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY:

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0660 616231

0660 calls cost 50p per minute at all times



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WESTLEA,  
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FAX: 01793 886182

Issued by the NEWSPRINT & NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP



All Saints have been unable to bring out any official merchandise because of the dispute with All Saints Clothing.

## BY FRASER NELSON

**ALL SAINTS**, the all-girl pop group, have been served a High Court writ by All Saints Clothing & Design, a small London fashion house. Stuart Trevor, who took out the trademark to All Saints in 1994, is seeking an injunction that would stop the pop group from producing any merchandising for their forthcoming UK tour.

He is suing each of the four girls personally along with De-Lux, a company that makes merchandise for pop groups and acts for All Saints. He said: "I know they are also interested in selling baggy trousers and fleeces — that's part of what we do. I believe they are in production now. "If I don't do this now, I may as well cease trading today."

We were well established in the clothing business before they came along."

Jeremy Joseph, managing director, of De-Lux said: "I really can't say anything about this. We've never been involved in a legal dispute before."

All Saints Clothing runs a boutique in the West End of London. Its clients include Robbie Williams, the singer who is engaged to Nicole Appleton from All Saints. Talks about a licensing deal broke down after the group's representatives described Mr Treweek's terms as "ludicrous".

The dispute has so far stopped the group from bringing out any official All Saints merchandise — depriving them of millions of pounds in extra revenue.

## Crest to cut cost for individuals

### Discussion

**SAFETYNET**, which provides disaster recovery services for bank dealing rooms, has been acquired by its management for £95 million.

A management team led by Paul Barry-Walsh, managing director, will own 55 per cent of the company, 31 which led

of the company. 3i, which led the transaction, will hold 20 per cent, while Reuters emerges with a 25 per cent interest. The deal is expected to be confirmed today.

Safetynet was one of the first companies to offer so-called financial business continuity services and is a leading provider of bank dealing room disaster recovery services. It

has trebled its facilities in the past 18 months by opening two new recovery centres in Central London and new sites in Manchester and Frankfurt.

It has also acquired a 28,000 sq ft bank dealing recovery centre in London, formerly owned by MCI WorldCom.

owned by MCI WorldCom. After a £10 million investment programme, Safetynet now has eight recovery centres in the UK, with additional sites in Tokyo, Frankfurt, Madrid and

Reuters took an initial stake in Safemart in 1992.

## Iberia climbs on board oneworld alliance

Dr. M. JAMES BARRETT

**IBERIA**, Spain's flagship airline, will today formally join the oneworld marketing alliance alongside British Air-

airline alongside British Airways as plans for its privatisation move up a gear.

Heads of the oneworld companies, which also include Qantas, Cathay Pacific, Canadian Airlines and Finnair, meet in Sydney today, when state-owned Iberia will be wel-

The alliance, launched last September, combines the airlines' timetables and frequent flyer programmes. It already covers 622 destinations in 139

countries, rivalling the Star alliance led by America's United Airlines and Lufthansa, Germany's flagship airline.

Iberia's inclusion follows last Friday's agreement with BA giving the UK airline a 9

The deal was valued at about £200 million but the

about £200 million but the final cost will be determined when the value of the Amadeus computer reservation system, in which Iberia has a 29.2 per cent interest, is established.

pects the partial privatisation of Iberia to take place later this year, when the airline is likely to be valued at about £2.5 billion. The Government will sell an initial 30 per cent interest to institutional investors

The Spanish airline is smaller than its new partners, with only about 200 aircraft and 95 routes. It transports 26.5 million passengers a year, as well as more than 200,000 tonnes of cargo. In 1996 it returned to profit after seven years of losses. Last year net profit doubled to more than 35 billion pesetas (\$146 million).

1998							1998							1998							1998								
High	Low	(Mid Cap)	Price	Wtdy	Yld	P/E	High	Low	(Mid Cap)	Price	Wtdy	Yld	P/E	High	Low	(Mid Cap)	Price	Wtdy	Yld	P/E	High	Low	(Mid Cap)	Price	Wtdy	Yld	P/E		
3%	0%	2.40	10	1	1%	...	3%	2%	7.30	Domestic	15	+	4	2.9	12.2	3	1	0.75	Just Group	1%	...	...	1	0%	0.18	Pacific Fed Wks	0%	...	...
191	74	14.20	ATA Services	119	...	...	14.20	ATA Services	119	...	...	...	...	14.20	ATA Services	119	...	...	...	...	14.20	ATA Services	119	...	...	...	...	...	...
133%	15%	12.30	AMCO Corp	...	...	9.2	71	75	32	...	...	...	...	75	32	...	...	...	...	...	75	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
157%	15%	6.14	ATA Group	94	...	15%	26	32	17	...	...	...	...	32	17	...	...	...	...	...	32	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	
115	75	27.00	Avco Parts Corp	25	...	...	27.00	Avco Parts Corp	25	...	...	...	...	27.00	Avco Parts Corp	25	...	...	...	...	27.00	Avco Parts Corp	25	...	...	...	...	...	...
67%	44%	5.94	Avista Group	40	...	...	5.94	Avista Group	40	...	...	...	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
96%	39%	2.31	Avista Gold	2	...	...	2.31	Avista Gold	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
96%	39%	2.31	Avista Gold	2	...	...	2.31	Avista Gold	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
43%	24%	8.85	Avista	29	...	...	8.85	Avista	29	...	...	...	...	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
102%	42%	10.20	Avista Metals	44	...	...	10.20	Avista Metals	44	...	...	...	...	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
88%	68%	10.00	Avista Metals	44	...	...	10.00	Avista Metals	44	...	...	...	...	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
108%	96%	35.00	Avista Steel	96	...	...	35.00	Avista Steel	96	...	...	...	...	96	...	...	...	...	...	...	96	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
119	72	4.00	Avista Steel	105	...	...	4.00	Avista Steel	105	...	...	...	...	105	...	...	...	...	...	...	105	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
110%	82%	15.50	Avista Steel	76	...	...	15.50	Avista Steel	76	...	...	...	...	76	...	...	...	...	...	...	76	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
100	80	16.00	Avista Steel	76	...	...	16.00	Avista Steel	76	...	...	...	...	76	...	...	...	...	...	...	76	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
48%	23%	97.00	Avista Steel	427	...	...	97.00	Avista Steel	427	...	...	...	...	427	...	...	...	...	...	...	427	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24%	54%	11.90	Avista Steel	6	...	...	11.90	Avista Steel	6	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
80%	57%	4.50	Avista Steel	20	...	...	4.50	Avista Steel	20	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
124	67	62.70	Avista Steel	201	...	...	62.70	Avista Steel	201	...	...	...	...	201	...	...	...	...	...	...	201	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
238%	181%	11.80	Avista Steel	67	...	...	11.80	Avista Steel	67	...	...	...	...	67	...	...	...	...	...	...	67	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
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115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	22.20	Avista Steel	115	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
115%	41%	22.20	Avista Steel																										

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## Seeing the glass as half empty

Why are businessmen so gloomy about the economic outlook? According to most business surveys, we should expect an outright recession this year. On the whole, though, economists are less pessimistic, and the Bank of England last week expressed the view that a recession would probably be avoided. Do you find that reassuring?

It used to be an article of faith among professional economists that surveys should be accorded the little weight. Better to stick to the hard, official data and to use that as inputs into conventional economic forecasting models. But it emerged that some surveys, notably the CBI Industrial Trends Survey, had a very good forecasting record, and more recently the official data on almost everything have been shrouded in varying degrees of darkness. So now when the surveys tell you something stark about the future, you should sit up and take notice.

You can still try to play down the CBI Industrial Trends Survey because it refers solely to manufac-

turing, which now represents less than a quarter of the economy, and whose relationship with the rest may have changed. Yet the service sector surveys are also pretty dire. Perhaps they are taking their cue from the mass of news reports and commentary about the difficult world situation. They may reflect an overestimation of the effects of the crises in Asia, Russia, Brazil and elsewhere on the inhabitants of number 39 Acacia Avenue, Croydon.

Or perhaps the surveys are revealing businessmen's lack of faith in the MPC. Having listened to the mantra that the Bank would do all it could to prevent inflation, they have not anticipated that the MPC would be ready to reduce interest rates as boldly as it has.

What all these explanations have in common is the conclusion that the surveys are misleading,

and that the future will not turn out to be as bad. That would be a comfortable result — which is one of the reasons why I am suspicious. I am particularly mindful that few economists saw the 1990-92 recession coming, and even when it was upon them, they grossly underestimated its severity. Yet at the time, much of the anecdotal evidence from business was very gloomy. Is it simply that business pessimism turns out to be self-fulfilling? Or were businessmen picking up something that the economists were missing?

Conventional economic forecasting is based on the presumption that relationships which held good in the past will hold good in the future. But when there is a fundamental change, such model-based predictions break down. The principle thing that forecasters missed about the 1990-92 recession in the UK was the emergence of negative equity in the housing market and the severity of its effect upon consumers' expenditure.



ROGER BOOTLE

Could there be something similar at work now? One thing you can be sure of: it won't be the same factor. Not only is widespread negative equity unlikely, but the forecasters are on to this one now. It will be something different. You are going to ask what it might be. I confess, I do not know — though I do have some general ideas.

We live in a period of enormous structural change. Even though the results may eventually be massively beneficial, change is unsettling and there are bound to be losers as well as winners. Perhaps businessmen's gloom and consumers' caution is a reflection of the clarity of the losses contrasted with the opaqueness of the possible gains.

You can see the negatives everywhere. Not only is manufacturing beset by strong sterling and global overcapacity, but financial services are facing increasing competition. Some large retailers, including those mainstays of the past, J Sainsbury and Marks & Spencer, are reeling. In several sectors, even when the business is there, it is difficult to make it sufficiently

profitable. Meanwhile, businessmen can see serious threats to their future. The dominant mood is corporate insecurity.

What's more, this mood affects employees. That could be why consumers' expenditure is weaker than you would expect on the basis of current income and wealth. More and more people do not expect things to carry on quite as before, and that includes the security of their jobs and the value of their prospective pensions. They can see the downsides of the structural changes happening in society but they cannot yet see the upsides.

That is not how it works in America. No country is further ahead in the structural change stakes, yet you do not see signs of gloom and doom in business or among consumers. Quite the opposite. Doubtless, this is partly because the economy has been powering ahead so

strongly, but that merely serves to restate the question.

Some of the answer might be innate American optimism, but there is surely something else. It is difficult to be gloomy about the implications of structural change when the benefits, including the sources of new employment and new wealth, are everywhere to be seen. In America, whatever the new technology takes away with one hand it more than gives back with the other.

The superstars of the stock market have been the Internet stocks, and mega-wealthy individuals are increasingly to be found among the owners of new, high-tech or information-based businesses.

There are no comparable examples on this side of the Atlantic. Unlike Americans, we may need to experience recovery from recession before we can feel buoyant about our future in the new economy. My suspicion is that the surveys are picking up something real about the state of confidence and that the professional forecasters will be caught flat-footed — again.

### Wright sells £5m Chrysalis shares

CHRIS WRIGHT, chairman of Chrysalis, has raised a further £5.6 million through the sale of shares in his media group (Martin Barrow writes).

Mr Wright, who sold shares worth £4.5 million a year ago to help to settle the bill for his divorce, sold 750,000 shares at 750p each, representing 2.39 per cent of the company. The share sale, announced after the formal Stock Exchange close on Friday, reduces Mr Wright's shareholding to below 30 per cent.

Chrysalis shares have enjoyed a good run in the new year, rising from 634p, amid renewed interest in the sector. Mr Wright's remaining shares are now worth about £70 million, even though the company, which has been investing heavily in its diverse media interests, has made a profit in only one year out of the past five.

Mr Wright is a prominent investor in Loftus Road, parent company of Queens Park Rangers, the football club, and in Wasps, the rugby club.

## Eurofighter consortium set for £2.8bn order from Greece

By MARTIN BARROW

GREECE is expected to confirm today that it is ready to order up to 80 Eurofighter aircraft.

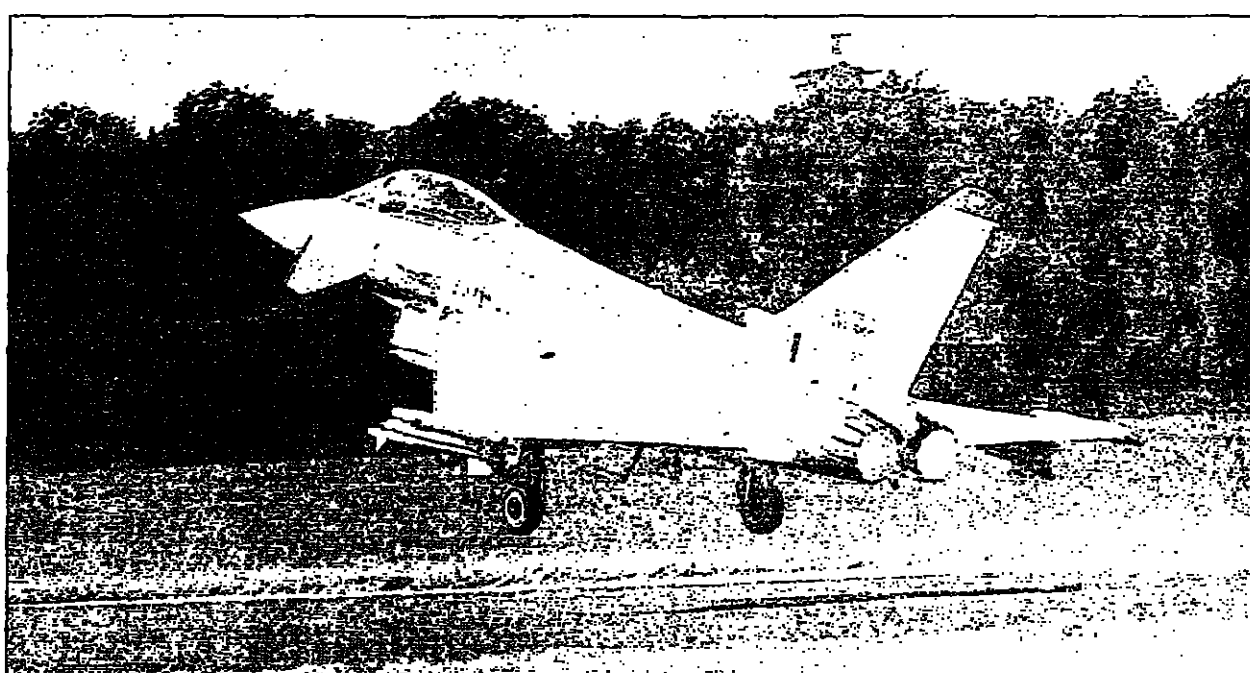
The £2.8 billion contract will represent the largest export order won so far by the European consortium, of which British Aerospace is a member.

However, Greece is placing the order for Eurofighters against the wishes of the country's military hierarchy, which wanted the Government to buy American-built F15s.

Military sources said the armed forces wanted to order 35 F15 aircraft from Boeing and the replacement or renovation of many F16 aircraft made by Lockheed Martin, and of Mirage 2000 aircraft by Dassault, which have aged or been lost in use.

Although Greece also looked at buying more Mirage jets from France and also considered the Russian-made Sukhoi, the Greek military held that the F15 was the best-performing aircraft available.

However, the Government ruled that the aircraft would bust the country's defence budget, with 40 F15s costing close to £3.8 billion (about £2.33 billion).



The Typhoon fighter aircraft was chosen by the Greek Government because it beat the American-built F15 on price

The choice of a new fighter aircraft is part of a massive effort to modernise the Greek armed forces at a cost of more than £10 billion, which was agreed in November 1996. The purchase of the Eurofighter, now known as the Ty-

phoon, will also impose financial constraints on the Greek defence ministry, but the country wants to open talks as soon as possible with the Eurofighter members, comprising Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain, over funding.

Delivery of the Typhoon would begin in 2005. Until then production lines at British Aerospace and its partners, comprising Dasa, Alenia and Casa, are committed to producing 610 of the aircraft for their domestic air

forces, including 232 for Britain. Greece also ratified an earlier decision to buy 11 French short-range Croate missile batteries, made by Thomson-CSF, and 45 T6A trainer aircraft made by Raytheon, of America.

## Ladbroke hit by US double whammy

By DOMINIC WALSH

LADBROKE, the hotel and gaming group that is poised to take over Stakis, has suffered a blow to its US gaming ambitions by being forced to pull out of an \$80 million (£9 million) deal to acquire the Bicycle Club, a Los Angeles card club.

The deal, which had been under discussion for more than two years, was scuppered by a combination of new anti-smoking laws, the effects of the Asian crisis on high-stakes gaming and new rules allowing California's Indian tribes to develop Las Vegas-style casinos.

The same factors have prompted Ladbroke to reduce its exposure to the San Pablo Card Club, near San Francisco, where trading is proving difficult. It has agreed to sell the club for just over its \$23 million book value to an Indian tribe while retaining the contract to operate it. Ladbroke is prevented from operating slot machines, but the implementation of the so-called Proposition 5 legislation allows tribal owners to do so. The sale, which gets round that barrier, is expected to take 12 months to complete.

A spokesman for Ladbroke said the negotiations to acquire the Bicycle Club from the Justice Department, which seized the venue in 1990 amid allegations of drug money laundering, had become "an administrative, regulatory and licensing nightmare". He added: "The outlook for our clubs in California has deteriorated. We have taken these steps in response to that situation."

Analysis interpreted the move as a setback to Ladbroke's ambitions to create a significant presence in the US gaming industry. Although it completed the \$87 million acquisition of the Colorado Gaming and Entertainment Co in August, in the profit estimates accompanying last week's Stakis offer document the group admitted that profitability from the business — Colorado's biggest casino operator — "has not yet met expectations" due to poor weather.

Although its racetracks in California and Pennsylvania "performed satisfactorily", a third track, in Detroit, was closed at the end of last year.

## New fund chases corporate cash

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE City's appetite for share buybacks has prompted the launch of a new fund today which offers companies with a large cash pile a low-risk alternative to cash deposits.

Fears that the economy has

peaked have led corporations to consider buying back their own stock as a way of increasing shareholder value. Many have built up cash reserves for this purpose but are receiving relatively low returns on their holdings.

Therefore, Merrill Lynch

Mercury Asset Management (MLMAM) has launched a US-style short-term institutional liquidity fund as an alternative to cash deposits.

The funds, in sterling, dollars and euros, aim to achieve returns in excess of the rates available on the interbank de-

posit market. They are aimed at corporations, insurance companies and pension funds in the UK. Anthony Simpson, head of MLMAM's client business in the UK, said cash levels in FTSE 350 companies, excluding financials, now exceeds £65 billion.

### INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE FROM 12TH FEBRUARY 1999.

### FLEMING Premier Banking

Account Balance	Old AER %	Old Gross %	New AER %	New Gross %	New Net %
<b>Investment Account - 2nd quarter</b>					
£10,000	5.25	5.25	4.84	4.75	3.80
£20,000	5.10	5.02	4.56	4.50	3.60
£30,000	4.94	4.75	4.28	4.25	3.40
£40,000	4.78	4.50	4.00	3.90	3.20
£50,000	4.62	4.35	3.75	3.60	3.00
£60,000	4.46	4.18	3.50	3.30	2.80
£70,000	4.30	4.02	3.25	3.00	2.60
£80,000	4.14	3.85	3.00	2.70	2.40
£90,000	3.98	3.69	2.75	2.40	2.20
£100,000	3.82	3.53	2.50	2.10	2.00
<b>Premier Account - 3rd month</b>					
£10,000	3.82	3.75	3.25	3.20	2.56
£20,000	3.66	3.59	3.09	3.04	2.36
£30,000	3.50	3.43	2.93	2.88	2.16
£40,000	3.34	3.27	2.77	2.72	1.96
£50,000	3.18	3.11	2.61	2.56	1.76
£60,000	3.02	2.95	2.45	2.40	1.56
£70,000	2.86	2.79	2.29	2.24	1.36
£80,000	2.70	2.63	2.13	2.08	1.16
£90,000	2.54	2.47	1.97	1.92	0.96
£100,000	2.38	2.31	1.81	1.76	0.76
<b>Classic Account - 3rd month</b>					
£10,000	3.26	3.25	2.55	2.50	2.00
£20,000	3.10	3.09	2.39	2.34	1.80
£30,000	2.94	2.93	2.23	2.18	1.60
£40,000	2.78	2.77	2.07	2.02	1.40
£50,000	2.62	2.61	1.91	1.86	1.20
£60,000	2.46	2.45	1.75	1.70	1.00
£70,000	2.30	2.29	1.59	1.54	0.80
£80,000	2.14	2.13	1.43	1.38	0.60
£90,000	1.98	1.97	1.27	1.22	0.40
£100,000	1.82	1.81	1.11	1.06	0.20
<b>Corporate Account - 2nd quarter</b>					
£10,000	3.02	2.75	2.20	2.20	2.40
£20,000	2.86	2.59	2.04	2.04	2.20
£30,000	2.70	2.43	1.88	1.88	2.00
£40,000	2.54	2.27	1.72	1.72	1.80
£50,000	2.38	2.11	1.56	1.56	1.60
£60,000	2.22	1.95	1.40	1.40	1.40
£70,000	2.06	1.79	1.24	1.24	1.20
£80,000	1.90	1.63	1.08	1.08	1.00
£90,000	1.74	1.47	0.92	0.92	0.80
£100,000	1.58	1.31	0.76	0.76	0.60
<b>Client Account - 2nd quarter</b>					
£10,000	3.02	2.75	2.20	2.20	2.40
£20,000	2.86	2.59	2.04	2.04	2.20
£30,000	2.70	2.43	1.88	1.88	2.00
£40,000	2.54	2.27	1.72	1.72	1.80
£50,000	2.38	2.11	1.56	1.56	1.60
£60,000	2.22	1.95	1.40	1.40	1.40
£70,000	2.06	1.79	1.24	1.24	1.20
£80,000	1.90	1.63	1.08	1.08	1.00
£90,000	1.74	1.47	0.92	0.92	0.80
£100,000	1.58	1.31	0.76	0.76	0.60
<b>Sovereign 30 - 2nd month</b>					
£10,000	4.01	3.85	3.43	3.38	4.28
£20,000	3.85	3.69	3.27	3.22	4.08
£30,000	3.69	3.53	3.08	3.06	3.88
£40,000	3.53	3.37	2.92	2.90	3.68
£50,000	3.37	3.21	2.76	2.74	3.48
£60,000	3.21	3.05	2.60	2.58	3.28
£70,000	3.05	2.89	2.44	2.42	3.08
£80,000	2.89	2.73	2.28	2.26	2.88
£90,000	2.73	2.57	2.12	2.10	2.68
£100,000	2.57	2.41	1.96	1.94	2.48
<b>Asset 30 - 2nd month</b>					
£10,000	4.01	3.85	3.43	3.38	4.28
£20,000	3.85	3.69	3.27	3.22	4.08
£30,000	3.69	3.53	3.11	3.06	3.88
£40,000	3.53	3.37	2.95	2.90	3.68
£50,000	3.37	3.21	2.79	2.74	3.48
£60,000	3.21	3.05	2.63	2.58	3.28
£70,000	3.05	2.89	2.47	2.42	3.08
£80,000	2.89	2.73	2.31	2.26	2.88
£90,000	2.73	2.57	2.15	2.10	2.68
£100,000	2.57	2.41	1.99	1.94	2.48
<b>Tessa Account - 2nd quarter</b>					
£10,000	4.01	3.85	3.43	3.38	4.28
£20,000	3.85	3.69	3.27	3.22	4.08
£30,000	3.69	3.53	3.11	3.06	3.88
£40,000	3.53	3.37	2.95	2.90	3.68
£50,000	3.37	3.21	2.79	2.74	3.48
£60,000	3.21	3.05	2.63	2.58	3.28
£70,000	3.05	2.89	2.47	2.42	3.08
£80,000	2.89	2.73	2.31	2.26	2.88
£90,000	2.73	2.57	2.15	2.10	2.68
£100,000	2.57	2.41	1.99	1.94	2.48
<b>Save &amp; Prosper Investment Account - 2nd quarter</b>					
£10,000	4.01	3.85	3.43	3.38	4.28
£20,000	3.85	3.69	3.27	3.22	4.08
£30,000	3.69	3.53	3.11	3.06	3.88
£40,000	3.53	3.37	2.95	2.90	3.68
£50,000	3.37	3.21	2.79	2.74	3.48
£60,000	3.21	3.05	2.63	2.58	3.28
£70,000	3.05	2.89	2.47	2.42	3.08
£80,000	2.89	2.73	2.31	2.26	2.88
£90,000	2.73	2.57	2.15	2.10	2.68
£100,000	2.57	2.41	1.99	1.94	2.48
<b>Save &amp; Prosper Reward 30 - 2nd month</b>					
£10,000	4.01	3.85	3.43	3.38	4.28
£20,000	3.85	3.69	3.27	3.22	4.08
£30,000	3.69	3.53	3.11	3.06	3.88
£40,000	3.53	3.37	2.95	2.90	3.68
£50,000	3.37	3.21	2.79	2.74	3.48
£60,000	3.21	3.05	2.63	2.58	3.28
£70,000	3.05	2.89	2.47	2.42	3.08
£80,000	2.89	2.73	2.31	2.26	2.88
£90,000	2.73	2.57	2.15	2.10	2.68
£100,000	2.57	2.41	1.99	1.94	2.48
<b>Save &amp; Prosper Fast-Track ISA - 2nd quarter</b>					
£10,000	4.01	3.85	3.43	3.38	4.28
£20,000	3.85	3.69	3.27	3.22	4.08
£30,000	3.69	3.53	3.11	3.06	3.88
£40,000	3.53	3.37	2.95	2.90	3.68
£50,000	3.37	3.21	2.79	2.74	3.48
£60,000	3.21	3.05	2.63	2.58	3.28
£70,000	3.05	2.89	2.47	2.42	3.08
£80,000	2.89	2.73	2.31	2.26	2.88
£90,000	2.73	2.57	2.15	2.10	2.68
£100,000	2.57	2.41	1.99	1.94	2.48
<b>ACCOUNTS NO LONGER OFFERED TO NEW DEPOSITORS</b>					
<b>Deposit Account</b>					
£10,000	2.95	2.75	3.25	3.20	2.60
£20,000	2.79	2.47	2.75	2.70	2.20
£30,000	2.63	2.25	2.25	2.20	1.80
<b>Higher Rate Deposit Account</b>					
£10,000	4.53	4.45	4.01	3.95	3.15
£20,000	4.37	4.27	3.75	3.70	2.85
£30,000	4.21	4.07	3.49	3.40	2.65
£40,000	4.05	3.89	3.23	3.10	2.50
£50,000	3.89	3.69	2.97	2.80	2.30
£60,000	3.73	3.49	2.71	2.50	2.10
£70,000	3.57	3.29	2.45	2.20	1.90
£80,000	3.41	3.11	2.19	1.90	1.70
£90,000	3.25	2.91	1.93	1.60	1.50
£100,000	3.09	2.75	1.67	1.30	1.30





Chronic ailments: the NHS has been an undoubted success and helped to increase the length and quality of people's lives, but is bedevilled by long waiting lists

## Time to take the scalpel to a stricken patient

**Sir David Barnes, chairman of AstraZeneca, in a plea for a long-overdue remedy, argues that we should open our minds to new and radical ways of funding the health service**

The vision held by the founders of the National Health Service some 51 years ago was that healthcare should be available to all, irrespective of their financial standing, at the time of need and free of charge. It was — and remains — a compelling vision. And despite the criticism levelled at the NHS today, there is no doubt that over the half century the British people have enjoyed a level of health provision that has generally served them well and been delivered at modest economic cost.

In recent years, and at increasingly frequent intervals, the question arises as to whether the NHS in its present form can continue to meet the reasonable expectations of us all. I am beginning to doubt that that can be the case.

Why should anyone doubt? The first reason is because of changing demographics. The very success of the health service in extending life expectancy brings with it additional pressures. Since the foundation of the National Health Service, the proportion of people over 65 years old in the United Kingdom has increased by more than 60 per cent, and of those over 75 years by close to 80 per cent. Studies have shown that the 65 to 74 age group absorb about three times the resources per head than the 5 to 65 age group do: the over 75 age

group absorb about eight times as much resource.

To a significant extent, our attitude to these changes will depend on our own positioning in those age groups. It is, of course, one thing to have extended life but quite another to ensure that that extended life is also a quality one. I do not think that I had heard of Alzheimer's disease until 15 years ago. Today, both within and without the family, it is something that is increasingly referred to in social discussion. This is a single example of a condition associated with senility: there are many more. Clearly then, demographic change is a factor that will continue to place strain on the available health resources.

Increased social mobility adds to the strain of changed demographics. Fifty-one years ago families tended to live in the same geographical area and were able to support those individuals who became increasingly frail or required day-to-day or hour-to-hour supervision within the family.

That is not the case today. I live in Oxfordshire, my daughter in Cheshire, my son in California, my brother in Denmark and my sister in the Isle of Man. Although our relationships remain strong, distance makes the provision of close supportive care an impossibility. Among my contemporaries, this geographic scatter is a common experience.

Important as demographic change and increased social mobility are in terms of increasing the demand for healthcare, they are much less significant than the increased intensity of healthcare. What do I mean by "increased intensity"? New technology and new products continue to be welcomed because they provide improved methods of treatment, or treatment for the first time, of conditions that were previously untreatable and in many cases would have led to earlier death.

Professor Christiaan Barnard caused the whole world to wonder at his skill when he undertook the first human heart transplant, but today those techniques have been developed and extended to the point where heart transplant surgery has become almost routine. It is, of course, an expensive procedure in itself and the need for the life-long provision of anti-rejection drugs places additional strain on health budgets.

There are thousands of patients who would benefit today from a cardiac transplant: the only limitation is the availability of suitable donor hearts. If that limitation were to be suddenly removed, then the ability to fund heart transplants would become the limiting factor (assuming enough skilled medical staff were available). Similarly, the technology exists today to treat the vast majority of patients suffering from kidney failure either through dialysis or through kidney transplants. Increasingly the limitation is becoming an economic one.

As a young man, I recall people wondered and were amazed at the success of the Charnley hip joint operation. Today the technology exists to provide all who need hip joint replacements with relief — (also knee joints and finger joints) — but patients are being placed in long queues. Why? Because of economic limitation. There are many additional examples of intensive medical care that one could cite. Such as the resources devoted to children who are many weeks premature at birth; or those who have cardiac bypass surgery. The list is increasingly a long one. Each of us is consoled by the thought that these technological advances are available today, should we have the need to resort to them.

It is difficult for any individual, and particularly for a politician, to suggest that the NHS in its present form cannot continue to meet the reasonable expectations of all patients. But the intensity of medical care is changing what is regarded as a reasonable expectation. Un-

less we recognise in an honest way the impact of changed demographics, increased social mobility and the ever-increasing intensity of healthcare, we will not be able to adapt the NHS to meet future needs.

So far, I have avoided using that ugly word "rationing" — but rationing has always existed and will increasingly exist. To stay as we are will mean the provision of healthcare free of charge for those who have the stamina and endurance to arrive at the front of an increasingly lengthy queue. For those without stamina (and without financial means to access private care) healthcare provision can only deteriorate.

It is, of course, one thing to point out the increasing dilemma we face; and quite another to suggest a better way forward. Experience in the US of a "mixed system" of state provision (Medicare and Medicaid) with insurance is not wholly reassuring. While the quality of healthcare provision is undoubtedly high, the economic cost is even greater. The open-

Medicare, Medishield and Medifund are the three key programmes.

Under the Medicare scheme every working individual is required by law to contribute to Medicare under his or her own personal account. Such contributions are shared equally between the employer and the employee, are tax-exempt and, better still, earn interest. Instead of the flat type of national insurance contribution that we are used to here in the UK, each individual has his or her personal account. This account can be used to pay for the individual's medical treatment over and above the state-subsidised level, and can be used to cover the expenses of other members of the family should there be a need to "top up" that family member's account. In the event of death, any credit in the fund forms part of the estate of the deceased and can be passed in the same way as other assets to beneficiaries.

Medishield is a basic low-cost catastrophic illness insurance scheme to help Medicare members meet medical expenses arising from serious or prolonged illness. While Medicare is compulsory for all workers, Medishield is an elective scheme. Annual premiums are standardised by age group, with the premium increasing from \$812 per annum for those aged up to 30, to \$8132 per annum for those aged over 65. Medishield pays 80 per cent of excess medical costs above a certain deductible level.

Finally, Medifund is an endowment fund set up specifically to help the poor and needy of Singapore who are unable to finance their medical care in any other way. The fund was established by the Government and only interest income from the endowment fund is used to pay hospital bills for the indigent sector. No system can be described as perfect or free of flaws. Here in the UK those who can afford it can provide the equivalent of the Singapore Medishield benefits through private health insurance. What is perhaps frustrating for individual patients is the feeling that they have in many cases over several decades paid their national insurance contributions but are unable to access the "individual credit balance" that they feel should exist in their name at the time of need. The Singapore healthcare system would seem to have a distinct advantage here.

Whatever else, I feel that there is a need to establish a greater element of consumer franchise at the basic primary care level. I would like to use my personal account credits to select the general practitioner who was to be responsible for my treatment. Most of us have no such choice today. We are allocated to a particular practice or doctor. Elements of the Medicare and Medishield systems would improve access to healthcare since the gateway is at the primary care/general practitioner level.

But, of course, any politician who suggests such a move would quickly be accused of privatising the NHS. Until that mindset changes, we are trapped in a downward spiral of reducing access to healthcare.

□ Tomorrow, Greg Dyke on making the NHS better.



Barnes: what is reasonable?

### TELEVISION CHOICE

## Bodgit and Scarper plc

Raising the Roof

BBC2, 8.00pm

Home improvers come under Paul Kenyon's penetrating scrutiny tonight and he continues his horribly entertaining series about the grubbier aspects of the housing business. Entertaining, that is, if you have not been a victim. Kenyon's latest report includes a figure familiar from many a consumer investigation, he who does his worst and then covers his back against complaints by deliberately (and legally) going out of business and starting up under another name. This time it is the director of a conservatory company, who to the dismay of his customers reinvents himself having left a trail of useless guarantees. We also meet the salesman who tries to persuade customers to buy his kitchen by breaking down in tears and a kitchen company whose manager has assaulted visitors to the showroom.

Animal ER

Channel 5, 8.30pm

Yet another documentary series about sick animals suggests either that Channel 5 is running short of ideas or that it is not ashamed to steal a good formula. Narrated by Tom Conti, but with no Rolf Harris figure to pull things together on screen, *Animal ER* is based in a veterinary practice in Salisbury which is open 24 hours a day throughout the year and treats sick cats and ailing racehorses with equal facility. Tonight's cat is pregnant and has been behaving oddly, while the racehorse has something wrong with its gut. There is also a dog brought in after being badly injured in a road accident. These three stories are crisply intercut with a fourth, about a tricky operation to remove an eyeball from a young calf which threatens to end in tears for the animal's eight-year-old owner.

Forgotten

ITV, 9.00pm

A three-part thriller by Caleb Carr, a writer new to television, is set in a perfect Cotswold village where superficially all is calm and contentment. But not for long. Hardly have the villagers finished celebrating Harvest Festival than an eight-year-old girl goes missing and the police are dragging the reservoir for her body. Anonymous letters impli-

Amanda Burton and Paul McGann star in the tense new drama *Forgotten* (ITV, 9pm)

cate Ben Turner (Paul McGann), who has a happy family life and an agreeable job running the second-hand bookshop. Seemingly unconnected, but connoisseurs of television mysteries will not be fooled, is the arrival of Rachel Monroe (Amanda Burton), a figure from Turner's darker past. Ranson juggles his narrative with skill, telling us enough to hold the attention but leaving plenty of questions tantalisingly unanswered.

Cutting Edge: Clapham Common

Channel 4, 9.00pm

The Ron Davies episode was bound to send filmmakers scurrying to the scene of his downfall and Paddy Whivel makes no attempt to disguise the fact that Davies was his pig. Lurid tabloid headlines about the former Welsh Secretary condemn the regulars in the Clapham Common café and part of Davies' resignation speech is played on the soundtrack. But this is merely the prelude to a broad-brushed impression, delivered without commentary, of the common and the people who frequent it. The area's reputation as a rendezvous for gay men is not ignored. As one of them says, they are not here for a whole class. But there is a more to Clapham Common than that. Whivel frames fruitfully in the café, which is run by a former ice-cream millionaire and is the focus for the sort of quirky characters that documentary makers must dream about. Peter Waymark

### RADIO CHOICE

Cry of the Bittern

Radio 4, 10.45am

The drama series set at the end of *Woman's Hour* has produced some excellent work and judged by its opening this sounds like another good example. *Cry of the Bittern* comes from the Pebble Mill stable where *The Archers* is produced and the producer of this series is Vanessa Whitburn, editor of *The Archers*. The story is billed as part environmental mystery, part love story and certainly there is a modern, and convincing, ring to the tale of a couple whose relationship is already under strain when a collision in their professional lives — he works for company waiting to build a huge new development in rural Norfolk, she works for the environment agency in the same county — threatens to make the split permanent.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zed Ball 9.00 Mark Goodier 12.00pm Kevin Greening 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 Lamasco Live With Pulp and a look at Radiohead's *The Bends* in Essential Albums 12.00am The Breakfast 2.00 Chris Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00pm Richard Littlejohn 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Big Band Legends 9.00 Michael Parkinson presents Billy May and the BBC Big Band in concert (9.00) 8.30 Jojo Holland (9.15) 9.30 Mark Lamas: *Shave, Rattle and Roll* (4.10) 10.30 Richard Ainsworth 12.00am Katrina Leschich 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast with Julian Worraker and Victoria Derbyshire 8.00 Nick Campbell 12.00pm The Midday News 1.00 Ruocco and Co 4.00 Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Gavey 7.00 News Extra 7.30 A Perfect Match. A romantic look at soccer 8.00 Trevor Brooking's Football Night 10.00 Late Night Live with Nick Robinson 1.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00pm The Big Boys Breakfast 1.00 Anna Rasmussen 3.00 Peter Dinkley 5.00 The Big Boys Breakfast 6.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins and the Creators of the Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30 Mark Forrest 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 *Honest* with Greg Dyke 6.45 *Good* 10.00 James Martin 1.00am Steve Power 4.00 Richard Allen

Tuning Into Children

Radio 4, 11.00am

The half-term starting point for this series may be assumed to be coincidental because the target audience is parents, grandparents and child care professionals. The six programmes aim to improve our understanding of what happens in children's lives between birth and five years old. The programmes are themed, starting today with *Time to Talk*. *Time to Play*, in which Kirsty Wark talks to brain scientists and child psychologists about the key role of stimulation in child development. The series is supported by a pocket book, written by Libby Purves of *The Times* and Dorothy Selkirk of the National Children's Bureau, which is available at £5.99 from BBC Education, PO Box 20, Tonbridge, TN11 6WU. Peter Barnard

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Newsflash 7.55 My Century 8.00 World News 8.05 Record News 8.20 On the Spot: Captain Corrie's Mandolin 8.35 Health Matters 9.00 World News 9.05 Westway Access 9.20 The Village Chart Show 9.30 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsday 10.30 Britain Today 10.45 The Farming World 11.00 Newsday 11.30 Pick of the World 12.00pm World News 12.05 Outlook 12.30 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newsday 2.00 World News 2.05 Health Matters 2.30 Newsday 3.00 World News 3.05 Sports Round-Up 3.15 Record News 3.30 Composer of the Month 4.00 World News 4.15 Insight 4.30 Multitrack: Hi-List 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 6.00 World News 6.05 World News 6.15 Britain Today 7.00 World News 7.05 Health Matters 7.30 Clouded Hills 7.45 On the Spot: Captain Corrie's Mandolin 8.00 Newsday 8.00 World News 8.05 World Business Report 8.20 Britain Today 8.30 Sports Round-Up 8.30 World News 8.35 Sports Round-Up 8.30 World News 8.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easter Breakfast. Favourite musical works plus regular internet updates 8.00 Henry Kelly: The Hall of Fame Hour and Record of the Week 12.00pm Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents listeners' favourites 2.00 Concerto. Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor) 3.00 Jimmy Eat World: *Conscious* (Classic Rock) 4.00 Romance 6.30 Newsnight. John Bunnings presents the latest stories 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. Two hours of soothing sounds 8.30 Evening Concert. Mozart (Piano in E flat major: *Concerto in D*, *Hornet*; *Flute Concerto in C*, *Clarinet Quintet in A*) 11.00 Michael Mappin. Wind down with the sound of ambient music 2.00am Concerto. Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor) (1) 3.00 Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny. Includes a review of *Enigma* by Peter Dinkley and Wagner's *Parsifal* directed by Nikolaus Lehnhoff 9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Copland (El Salon Mexico); Gneg (Piano Concerto in A minor); Bach (The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I, Part 1); Chopin (Four Impromptus); in A flat, Op 29; in F sharp, Op 36; in G flat, Op 51; in C sharp minor, Op 66; Fantasia in G minor; Scherzo in F major; Preludes, Op 18; Piano Sonata No 4 in F sharp) 2.00 The BBC Orchestra BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mark Wigglesworth. Anne Evans, soprano; Steven Isserles, cello 4.00 Opera in Action with Robert Lloyd 4.45 Music Machine Tommy Pearson reports from last night's *Concert* 5.00 *World* 5.15 *World* 5.30 *World* 5.45 *World* 5.50 *World* 6.00 *World* 6.15 *World* 6.30 *World* 6.45 *World* 6.50 *World* 7.00 *World* 7.15 *World* 7.30 *World* 7.45 *World* 7.55 *World* 8.00 *World* 8.15 *World* 8.30 *World* 8.45 *World* 8.55 *World* 9.00 *World* 9.15 *World* 9.30 *World* 9.45 *World* 10.00 *World* 10.15 *World* 10.30 *World* 10.45 *World* 10.55 *World* 11.00 *World* 11.15 *World* 11.30 *World* 11.45 *World* 11.55 *World* 12.00 *World* 12.15 *World* 12.30 *World* 12.45 *World* 12.55 *World* 1.00 *World* 1.15 *World* 1.30 *World* 1.45 *World* 1.55 *World* 2.00 *World* 2.15 *World* 2.30 *World* 2.45 *World* 2.55 *World* 3.00 *World* 3.15 *World* 3.30 *World* 3.45 *World* 3.55 *World* 4.00 *World* 4.15 *World* 4.30 *World* 4.45 *World* 4.55 *World* 5.00 *World* 5.15 *World* 5.30 *World* 5.45 *World* 5.55 *World* 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# A sitcom that sank on its Atlantic crossing

The difference between British and American sitcoms is that we can't do "bland" and they can. Our best shows are always based on characters teetering over an abyss of misery, desperation or chaos. They are written by one, at the most two, individual geniuses. They have short runs, each show as lovingly crafted as a Chippendale TV and video cabinet.

Successful American sitcoms, by contrast, are usually upbeat and cheerful, assembled by highly "managed" teams, under a ferocious quality control system. This ensures the correct number of wisecracks, neatly co-ordinated with the ad breaks. Sugary sentiment and piquant satire are added in like dollops of sauce on a hamburger. When our stuff gets on the air, the jokes become pallid and feeble or disappear altogether.

So it was intriguing to see a

cross-over show with a comfy American series re-written for British local writers. *Days Like These* (TV, Friday) is set in Luton in 1976 and revolves around a bunch of happy-go-lucky youngsters discovering life, love and smoking the odd joint.

In the event, the only aspect of real 1970s life the show evokes is an American sitcom of that period, or earlier, *Happy Days* perhaps, or *The Monkees*. The sets look gaudy and false. The costumes have probably been carefully researched, but they look false too, as if they came from the same agency as Vanessa's guests and are only pretending to be groovy 1970s rags.

Like most dull sitcoms, the show is remorselessly suburban, without satirising suburban life. There is no interesting engagement with the real experience. The situations are plausible enough, but because they are all small-town American

in origin, they have no observational bite and we don't get the pleasure of remembering the oddities of our past. It is set in Luton but it feels like Nowhereville, Nowhere, Noland.

Even the American slickness seems to have got lost on the voyage. It would be unfair to say it is never funny. I managed a wan laugh or two. But why on earth couldn't the commission writers who could write with real wit about what it was like to be young here 25 years ago? A few of them are still alive, I believe.

Whenever some crime or misdemeanour is exposed, we can safely assume that it is the tip of an iceberg most of which lurks beneath the surface of public knowledge. And heaven knows how often the show hosts such as Vanessa and Trisha haven't had a clue that some of their guests were fake.

## REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

If researchers use agencies to supply "real" human-interest stories on demand, it simply invites corruption, as producers' teams will know. But that is not the root of it. Low budgets, short preparation time, huge pressure to deliver ratings, desperate, sloppy, copy-cut programming, these are the causes of fake television.

If it doesn't exist already, there will soon be an agency offering off-

the-peg docu-soap scenarios, complete with loveably outrageous characters. For a modest sum you will be able to film anything from the staff of a downmarket campsite to a troupe of transvestite strippers. Just don't ask too many questions.

There were moments during *Love Town* (BBC1, Sunday) when the off-the-wall jollity of the couples who had gone to Greens Green to be married seemed forced and contrived that I began to think they must have been supplied by an agency. But then I was reassured by the thought that if they had been fakes they would probably not have been so dispiritingly dreary.

We saw them going into the bathroom, coming out of the bathroom, preparing a wretched selection of snacks for a caravan, trying to kill in the lift-hire shop, walking up the gloomy, overcast High Street looking for witnesses.

Several of them cackled a lot. When the woman who had got married without telling her parents returned to Wales to break the news, I was certain they were re-enacting their touching reunion.

The loveable eccentric was Jim, a tediously self-conscious fake blacksmith who performs the arrival wedding at Gretna Hall. His partner is perfectly geared to the coach parties of pensioners who troupe through between "marriages", but he obviously hopes the series will bring him more exciting bookings.

If *Boyz Unlimited* feels like a send-up of a send-up, *Love Town* just feels like a send-up. It's ten o'clock and Robert and Sonia are still eating breakfast. That sort of thing. Genuine fake actors would probably be more interesting. Trust Me I'm A Doctor (BBC2), which returned on Friday, is another cheap and cheerful series.

I don't expect it will attract high ratings, but at least it proves that there is a market for an informative, lively and challenging programme on a low budget.

Perky doctor Phil Hammond's main subject this week was the treatment for rectal cancer, which I realise does not make wholesome family entertainment, especially the close-ups of excised growths. A form of surgery, pioneered in England, is now used widely abroad, reducing the risk of an untreatable recurrence from over 30 to about 5 per cent. Yet only a minority of British doctors use this technique, and many patients continue to die unnecessarily.

Hammond also asked why herbal drugs with negligible side-effects, used successfully in Germany to treat depression and dementia, were almost unknown here. I wish him a good run before an agency starts offering off-the-peg medical outages.

- 6.00am Business Breakfast** (60757)  
**7.00am BBC Breakfast News** (1) (62808)  
**9.00am A Morning with Eastenders** (60757/3)  
**9.05am Killy** (1) (528698)  
**9.45am Live Eastenders Phone-In** (5827047)  
**10.00am The Vanessa Show** (1) (5030192)  
**10.55am News: Weather** (1) (6450844)  
**11.00am Eastenders Pub Quiz** (1) (6356405)  
**11.10am Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook** (1) (6450828)  
**11.40am Live Eastenders Phone-In** (5827075)  
**11.50am Eastenders Exclusive** (1) (621186)  
**11.55am News: Weather** (1) (6210467)  
**12.00pm Call My Bluff** (7825)  
**12.30am Wipeout** (1813329)  
**12.55am The Weather Show** (1) (4818631)  
**1.00pm One O'Clock News** (1) (12383)  
**1.30pm Regional News: Weather** (1) (4715399)  
**1.40pm Neighbours** (1) (2579454)  
**2.05pm Inside** (1) (3411115)  
**2.25pm Body Spies** (5195405)  
**2.55pm CBBC Playdays** (6013134) 3.45 Littlest Elf Show (3202518) 3.55 Badger and Badger (3042009) 4.10 Peter Rabbit Adventures (4822339) 4.20 Anthony and the Beetles (4822339) 4.30 Miffy (5880969) 4.40 Newsround (320467) 4.50 Blue Peter (6072009) 5.00 Newsround (320467) 5.10 Blue Peter (6072009) 5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (813028)  
**6.00pm Six O'Clock News: Weather** (1) (776)  
**6.30pm Regional News Magazine** (888)  
**7.00pm This is Your Life** (1) (1863)  
**7.30pm Watchdog Healthcheck** (1) (912)  
**8.00pm Eastenders** Robbie incurs Terry's wrath (1) (7263)



George Cole stars as the ever-awful Brian (8.30pm)

- 8.30pm Dad** The day of Brian's heart operation arrives. Last in series (1) (6318)  
**9.00pm Nine O'Clock News: Weather** (1) (6134)  
**9.30pm Animal Politics** Trainers Dave Smith scrapes a place on the RSPCA field training course (22663)  
**10.00pm Panorama** Are some Labour politicians being undermined by the party hierarchy? (1) (661047)  
**10.45pm The Babyfather's Seduction** (1996) Premiere. Thriller, starring Karl Russell as a naive babyfather drawn into a sinister plot by her employer. Directed by David Burton Moore (1) (6350318)  
**12.10am The Defence of a Married Man** (1980) A lawyer defends his husband on a murder charge. Starring Judith Light. Directed by Joel Olsney (1) (6100897)  
**1.40pm Weather** (843055)  
**1.45pm BBC News** 24 (70151142)

- 10.00pm Labour of Love** (115) (78554) 10.30 **Panorama** (1) (571922) 11.15 **Film: The Babyfather's Seduction** (1) (472950) 12.40am **Film: In Defence of a Married Man** (1) (2521326) 2.10 **News** (1) (6041005) 2.15-6.00 **BBC News** 24 (52942516)

- 7.00pm Children's BBC Breakfast Show** The Family Ness (314554) 7.05 **Teletubbies** (6064196) 7.30 **Snorks** (2324329) 7.50 **Blue Peter** (6229293) 8.20 **Tea-Mates** (7035844) 8.40 **Popa Dot Shorts** (3614692) 8.50 **Ronnie and the Reindeer** (5910778) 9.00 **Space Ark** (5834739) 9.10 **Short Circuit** (4741689) 9.30 **Writing and Pictures** (1826134) 9.45 **Storyline** (1821699) 10.00 **Teletubbies** (6064196) 10.30 **Words and Pictures** (2811263) 10.45 **Cats' Eyes** (2616738) 11.00 **Look and Read** (4115509) 11.20 **Zig Zag** (8100115) 11.40 **Landmarks** (4491641) 12.05pm **History File** (1732642) 12.30 **Working Lunch** (43711) 1.00 **Ronnie and the Reindeer** (5910778) 1.10 **The Travel Hour** (1) (822383) 1.20 **Sporting Greats** (6197692) 1.40 **News: Weather** (1) (3231370) 2.45 **Match of the Day** (616) (1) (2789912) 3.25 **News: Weather** (1) (7809450) 3.30 **Arash with Colour New series** The Artist Dermot Cavanagh travels through Ireland (134) 4.00 **Kaye New series** Presented by Kaye Adams (619405) 4.25 **Ready, Steady, Cook** New series. Cookery challenge show (1) (6192592) 4.55 **Edith New series** Studio debate hosted by Edith Rantzen (1) (3436573) 5.30 **Today's the Day** New series (1) (405) 6.00 **The Simpsons** (1) (1) (874405) 6.20 **The Simpsons** (1) (1) (874421) 6.45 **Hil, Miss or Maybe** (1) (630979)



Nicole Kidman's acclaimed performance in *The Blue Room* (7pm)

- 7.00pm The Laurence Olivier Awards** Cive Anderson hosts the ceremony, where notable nominations include Nicole Kidman for *The Blue Room*, Kevin Spacey for *The Iceman Cometh* and the musical *Saturday Night Fever* (1) (5776)  
**8.00pm [CHOICE] Raising the Roof** Undercover exposures of crooked businesses (4/6) (1) (5825)  
**8.30pm Food and Drink** Ken Hom prepares for the Chinese New Year (1) (7660)  
**9.00pm Red Dwarf** Holly's invention hurls the crew into a parallel universe (1) (6776)  
**9.30pm The League of Gentlemen** The last of the comedy series (6/6) (1) (20405)  
**10.00pm If I Ruled the World** Political comedy quiz, with Cive Anderson (76196)  
**10.30pm Newswatch** (1) (515554)  
**11.15pm Bookmarks** Iris Murdoch, A Certain Lady. Tribute to the late Iris Murdoch. Weatherwise (38008)  
**12.00am Despatch Box** Political news (64697)  
**12.30pm BBC Learning Zone** Open University: Behind a Mask 1.30 The York Mystery Plays 2.00 Schools: Ghostwriter 4.00 Language: Spanish - Word Spanish 5.45 Open University: Pilgrimage - The Shrine at Loreto 6.10 Frederick the Great and Sans Souci 6.35 Talking Note

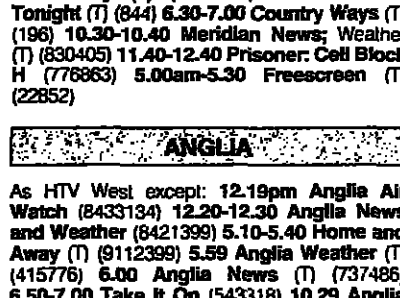
- 5.30am ITN Morning News** (81937)  
**6.00am GMTV** (861806)  
**9.25am Trisha** (1) (5349831)  
**10.30am This Morning** (1) (11453738)  
**12.15pm ITN News** (1) (7022467)  
**12.30am ITN Lunchtime News** (1) (43757)  
**1.00pm Shortland Street** Ellen's mother walks out on her (641)  
**1.30pm Home and Away** Robert makes his presence felt (1) (53298)  
**2.00pm The Jerry Springer Show** (1) (5787370)  
**2.45pm Supermarket Sweep** (1) (291486)  
**3.15pm ITN News Headlines** (1) (9408432)  
**3.30pm ITN News** (1) (2558955)  
**3.25pm City: Cartoon Time** (6003202) 3.45 **Captain Pugwash** (3048825) 4.00 **Oogy and the Cockroaches** (3235776) 4.20 **It's a Mystery** (3211198) 4.45 **Sabrina the Teenage Witch** (5304979)  
**5.10pm WEST: Getaways** Gill Impy visits the Highlands. Special World animal rescue centre (1) (1) (1212399)  
**5.10pm WALES: Moneyspinners** Fire brigade memorabilia (1) (1) (1212399)  
**5.40pm ITN Early Evening News** (1) (444047)  
**6.00pm Home and Away** (1) (788778)  
**6.25pm WALES: Wales Tonight: Weather** (1) (623944)  
**6.25pm WEST: ITV Weather** (232252)  
**6.50pm WEST: The West Tonight** (1) (196)  
**6.55pm ITN News** (1) (610592)  
**7.00pm Wish You Were Here** Andrea Turner visits Ayr. Rock in the Australian Outback (1) (6931)  
**7.30pm Coronation Street** Lorraine and Linda fight over Steve (1) (680)



Peter McGrane learns the outcome of his job interview (8pm)

- 8.00pm Trauma** Team Staff nurse Peter McGrane discovers whether or not he's got the permanent job (5/6) (1) (2679)  
**8.30pm Carol Vorderman's Better Homes** The team visit Cornwall (7/10) (1) (1486)  
**9.00pm [CHOICE] Forgotten** Psychological drama set in a sleepy Cotswolds town (1/3) (1) (6486)  
**10.00pm News at Ten: Weather** (1) (63605)  
**10.30pm ITN News** (1) (30405)  
**10.40pm Nash Bridges** Old acquaintance Rick Bettina, now a bounty hunter, turns up out of the blue (1) (623912)  
**11.40pm Midnight Caller** One of Jack's regular callers "whistles" a murder in her apartment (7/6963)  
**12.40am Football Extra** Football League highlights (2827652)  
**1.40pm World Football** (1) (6148054)  
**2.10pm The Pit and the Pendulum** (1961) A 19th-century nobleman who turns the tables on two lovers out to drive him mad. Horror, with Barbara Steele and John Kerr. Directed by Roger Corman (634214)  
**3.35pm Trisha** Show earlier (1) (1) (9408158)  
**4.35pm ITN Newsround** Behind the scenes of TV programmes (94891018)  
**5.00pm Coronation Street** (1) (28852)

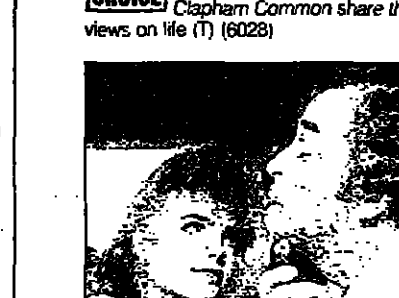
- As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30pm Central News: Weather** (1) (8421399) 1.00 **High Road** (1) (84641) 1.30 **The Jerry Springer Show** (1) (5787370) 2.00 **Home and Away** (1) (788778) 2.45 **Supermarket Sweep** (1) (291486) 3.15 **ITN News Headlines** (1) (9408432) 3.30 **ITN News** (1) (2558955) 3.25 **City: Cartoon Time** (6003202) 3.45 **Captain Pugwash** (3048825) 4.00 **Oogy and the Cockroaches** (3235776) 4.20 **It's a Mystery** (3211198) 4.45 **Sabrina the Teenage Witch** (5304979) 5.10 **WEST: Getaways** Gill Impy visits the Highlands. Special World animal rescue centre (1) (1) (1212399) 5.10 **WALES: Moneyspinners** Fire brigade memorabilia (1) (1) (1212399) 5.40 **ITN Early Evening News** (1) (444047) 6.00 **Home and Away** (1) (788778) 6.25 **WALES: Wales Tonight: Weather** (1) (623944) 6.25 **WEST: ITV Weather** (232252) 6.50 **WEST: The West Tonight** (1) (196) 6.55 **ITN News** (1) (610592) 7.00 **Wish You Were Here** Andrea Turner visits Ayr. Rock in the Australian Outback (1) (6931) 7.30 **Coronation Street** Lorraine and Linda fight over Steve (1) (680)



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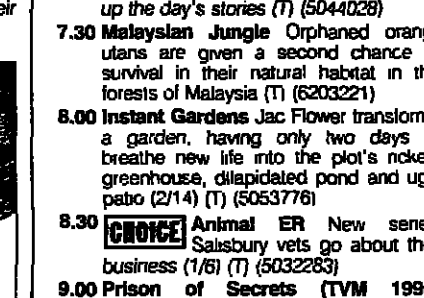
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## For further listings see Saturday's Vision

### SKY ONE

- 7.00am** Cartoons (59329) 7.30 **The Chris Evans Breakfast Show** (32221) 8.50 **Cartoons** (19535) 9.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 9.30 **Flash Gordon** (6221) 10.00 **Murphy's Law** (32831) 11.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 11.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 12.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 12.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 1.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 1.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 1.50 **Cartoons** (19535) 2.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 2.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 3.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 3.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 4.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 4.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 5.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 5.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 6.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 6.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 7.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 7.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 8.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 8.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 9.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 9.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 10.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 10.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 11.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 11.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 12.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 12.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 1.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 1.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 1.50 **Cartoons** (19535) 2.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 2.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 3.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 3.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 4.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 4.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 5.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 5.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 6.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 6.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 7.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 7.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 8.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 8.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 9.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 9.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 10.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 10.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 11.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 11.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 12.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 12.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 1.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 1.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 1.50 **Cartoons** (19535) 2.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 2.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 3.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 3.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 4.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 4.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 5.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 5.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 6.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 6.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 7.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 7.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 8.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 8.30 **Cartoons** (19535) 9.00 **Cartoons** (19535) 9.30 **Cart**





## PROFILE 37 Getting the lie of Land Secs

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

# BUSINESS

MONDAY FEBRUARY 15 1999

**SURVEYS 41**  
Roger Bootle  
offers a  
warning



## Recession is already upon us, says think-tank

By OUR ECONOMICS  
CORRESPONDENT

THE economy is likely to be already in recession because of a fall in demand both at home and abroad, a leading think-tank said today. It also argued that there was little that the Chancellor can do in his March Budget to ease the slump this year.

Oxford Economic Forecasting and the London Business School said the economy is likely to contract in both the first and second quarters of this year, thus fulfilling the definition of a "technical" recession.

Growth for the year would be about 0.4 per cent, compared with 2.5 per cent in 1998, it said.

The full-year forecast is broadly in line with forecasts by City economists but below the growth of between 1 per cent and 1.5 per cent predicted by the Treasury.

"With world trade growth falling from over 10 per cent in 1997 to around 5 per cent now, we expect net trade to cut another one percentage point off GDP growth in 1999," OEF said.

Domestic demand growth, too, had slowed sharply to its lowest level since

1992, with consumer demand "disappointing", it said, predicting unemployment would rise from 4.6 per cent of the workforce now to 5.5 per cent by the end of the year and 6.2 per cent by the end of 2000.

But, the forecast said, there were good reasons for expecting the recession to be much milder than in 1990-91.

Inflation was only a quarter of the level of 1990, interest rates were already much lower than at the beginning of the last recession and household finances were not overstretched as they were a decade ago, which led to households cutting spending

to repay debt, it said. Interest rates should fall from the current level of 5.5 per cent to 5 per cent by the summer, it said, but there was no reason why rates could not go lower if activity turned out to be weaker than expected.

The OEF/LBS expects Gordon Brown's Budget on March 9 to be broadly neutral in fiscal policy terms with any headline-grabbing tax cuts matched by increases elsewhere.

But the slowing economy would push public finances from a small surplus in the current fiscal year to sizeable deficits

over the next two years, it said. "Our forecasts suggest that, as long as the recession is shallow, the Government should be able to muddle through these fiscal challenges without having to raise taxes."

"But with a more pronounced downturn, something could well have to give. It is ironic that by handing control of interest rates to the (Bank of England), the Chancellor may have lost room for manoeuvre on fiscal policy too."

Germany will propose an institution to counteract erratic foreign exchange markets when officials of the Group of Seven

industrialised countries meet in Bonn at the weekend. The plan, devised by Germany's Finance Ministry, envisages an institution composed of G7 finance ministers and central bank governors. It would watch for excessive swings in all financial markets, but especially in foreign exchange markets.

The ministry will suggest that the institution would convene to assess whether economic corrective measures were needed in the event of significant fluctuations in the foreign exchange markets. It might also consider fines for speculative trades.

## British Steel poised to defy Schröder

By PAUL ARMSTRONG AND SIGRID AUFTERBECK

BRITISH STEEL threatens to ignite a row between Britain and Germany by launching a fresh bid for Salzgitter, the troubled German steel manufacturer, just one year after its original bid was scuppered by Gerhard Schröder.

The German Chancellor led a vocal campaign against British Steel's first bid for Salzgitter in January 1998, when he was state premier in Lower Saxony.

Threatened with deepening losses caused by depressed steel prices, Salzgitter was forced to search for an outside investor to avert collapse. British Steel and Voest Alpine, the Austrian steel group, were quick to respond, but Herr Schröder vetoed any deal and organised a state-sponsored rescue. He initiated a public takeover of Salzgitter on the ground that its foreign suitors planned to slash its workforce.

Now the UK group is deciding whether to make a fresh offer after learning last week that the German group was in merger talks with the Arbed steel company of Belgium.

A British Steel spokesman

said: "It is potentially interesting news that a large proportion of the company may now be available. Whether we would want to take advantage of that is something I am less able to comment on."

But it is understood that British Steel remains attracted to Salzgitter and had its hopes rekindled by its willingness to negotiate with Arbed.

Salzgitter's share register now lists NordLB, a publicly owned bank, as a 39 per cent shareholder and Niedersächsischer Region, a state body, with 26 per cent. The remaining 35 per cent is controlled by private interests. "NordLB is known not to be interested in being a long-term investor in Salzgitter," one source said.

It was unclear at the weekend how far Arbed had progressed in its talks with Salzgitter, with some analysts believing that the Belgian group was making its negotiations appear more advanced than they were. They said there were large question marks over Arbed's financial ability to buy Salzgitter, particularly because publicly owned German groups were

unlikely to want scrip in a foreign steel company.

Salzgitter produces about five million tonnes of steel a year, compared with Arbed's 20 million tonnes and British Steel's 16 million tonnes. The world's biggest producers, Nippon Steel of Japan and PoSCO of South Korea, are running at annual rates of about 26 million tonnes.

British Steel has cash reserves of about £400 million and an undrawn credit line of £200 million. Analysts said it would have little difficulty swallowing a mill of Salzgitter's size, although the market would be concerned about its lack of dividend cover.

A wide belief that the company will retain its dividend despite the brutal steel environment is cited as the key reason for the stock not falling further. Analysts are tipping British Steel to record a loss of up to £200 million in the year to March 31 despite making a £104 million first-half profit.

The deficit is expected to rise to as much as £300 million next year. But many are forecasting that a recovery in steel prices will foster a turnaround in earnings in 2001. The shares plunged from 172p in May to a low of 87p in December. They closed on Friday at 129p.



IG Metall, which represents 3.2 million metal and engineering workers, will give a mediator 48 hours to resolve its dispute

## Germany faces strike deadline

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN FRANKFURT

GERMANY'S most powerful union yesterday moved closer to a national strike in a dispute over pay.

IG Metall, which represents 3.2 million metal and engineering workers, has demanded a pay rise of 6.5 per cent. Employers have offered 2.3 per cent plus up to 0.5 per cent in one-off, profit-linked payments.

Yesterday the union said it would give a mediator just 48 hours to resolve the dispute. If

this failed, the odds are stacked heavily against Hans-Jochen Vogel, a former Justice Minister, workers in the Baden-Wuerttemberg region, the powerhouse of German industry and home to Porsche and Audi, would be asked to vote in a strike referendum next week. If 75 per cent approve, the strike could start early next month.

Hundreds of thousands of IG Metall members have tak-

en part in work stoppages across the country in the past few days.

On Friday Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, sent a letter to both sides, warning them of the possible consequences of an open conflict at a time when the German economy is weakening.

Herr Schröder is concerned that the strike ballot is due to take place just before a meeting between the German Govern-

ment and employers to draw up an employment pact, which is a central weapon in his fight against unemployment and featured prominently in his election campaign last year.

Economists have voiced fears that widespread strikes could wreck Herr Schröder's round-table Alliance for Jobs project, which aims to involve both employers and unions in efforts to cut the double-digit unemployment rate.

## Crisis talks at Royal Ordnance

By MARTIN BARROW

UNIONS will today hold meetings with senior managers of British Aerospace to discuss the future of Royal Ordnance, the company's loss-making munitions subsidiary.

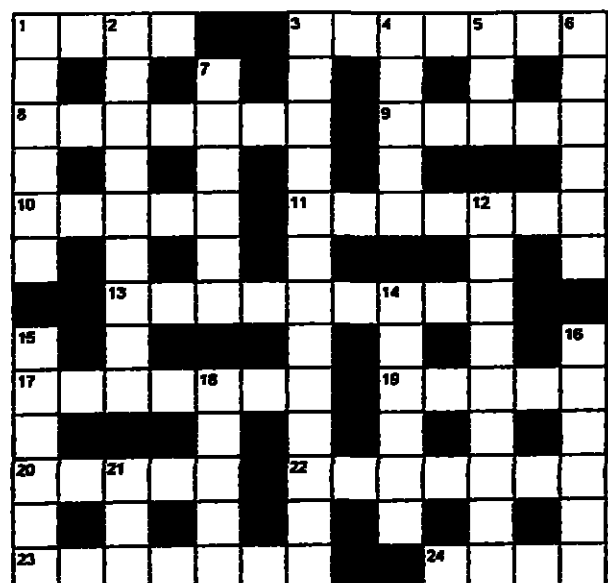
Representatives of Royal Ordnance's 4,000 workers from all ten UK plants have been summoned to a meeting at Leyland, Lancashire.

The talks take place amid grave concern over the future of the business. BAE has indicated that Royal Ordnance cannot survive for more than six months in its current form. A union source said: "Management are expected to give a presentation on the problems confronting the company and the steps the company thinks will be necessary to avoid its collapse."

BAE had hoped to merge Royal Ordnance in a joint venture with Germany's Rheinmetall. However, talks failed to make progress and BAE may soon close plants to stem losses. Last week Rheinmetall said it was interested in taking over Royal Ordnance but BAE said no formal proposal had been received.

The crisis arises from a decision by the Ministry of Defence to buy cheaper ammunition from overseas. Britain has cut annual spending on purchases from Royal Ordnance to £150 million from £350 million since BAE bought the business from the Government ten years ago.

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1641

### ACROSS

- 1 Stay; await (one's time) (4)
- 3 Mail received (7)
- 8 Narrow-minded (7)
- 9 Confound, confute (5)
- 10 Laughing animal (5)
- 11 "England" (Nelson) (7)
- 13 Neither gain nor lose (5,4)
- 17 Bartered; bride composer (7)
- 19 Barrie's *Pan*; Potter's *Rabbit* (5)
- 20 Mean house (5)
- 22 A French dynasty: a whiskey (7)
- 23 Stage performer (7)
- 24 Jacob's first wife (*Gen.* 29) (4)

### DOWN

- 1 Well-lit; intelligent (6)
- 2 Pretend; hypocritically conceal (9)
- 3 Dorset building stone (7,6)
- 4 Overwhelm; bog (5)
- 5 Prohibit; pub (3)
- 6 Lubricate; melted fat (6)
- 7 Minor corruption (6)
- 12 Policeman; a painter (9)
- 14 Gas, cloud (6)
- 15 Breathing disorder (6)
- 16 Spanner; twist violently (6)
- 18 Map book (5)
- 21 Tub (5)

### SOLUTION TO NO 1640

- ACROSS: 3 *Deities* 7 *Voyage* 8 *Caries* 9 *Joshua* 10 *Pick up* 11 *Corns* 13 *Slave* 15 *Pros* 17 *Patier* 18 *Turtle* 19 *Bookie* 20 *Groggry* 21 *Eloagae*
- DOWN: 1 *Rococo* 2 *Fathos* 3 *Default* 4 *Realise* 5 *Think* 6 *Sisyphus* 11 *Culpable* 12 *Nostramo* 13 *Stewing* 14 *Vestige* 15 *Pardon* 16 *Oblige*

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## Electra investors seek bid strategy

By ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL STODDART, the chairman of Electra Investment Trust, will come under pressure this week to set out plans to enhance shareholder value as fears grow over the fate of 3i's proposed £1.2 billion takeover bid.

Shareholders hope that Mr Stoddart will identify an American counter bidder or outline plans to wind up the investment trust and return capital to investors.

Electra shares surged 120p to 670p last month when 3i, the rival venture capitalist, said it was considering making an offer for Electra.

However, 3i has yet to make a formal offer and relations between the two sides have soured, narrowing the likelihood of a friendly takeover or merger.

Disagreement between Elec-

tra and 3i centres on the continuing role of the Electra fund management team and on an accurate value for the trust. Electra managers are employed by Electra Fleming, which is jointly owned by the investment trust and by Robert Fleming, the investment group. 3i is concerned the value of Electra would be significantly impaired if it could not retain the management team.

Alarmed by the threat of a fall in Electra shares should 3i fail to bid, investors want Mr Stoddart, who has deferred his retirement until the impasse is resolved, to set out alternative proposals at Wednesday's annual meeting in London. Hundreds of anxious investors are set to attend, prompting Electra to switch the venue from the Howard Hotel to larger facilities at the Savoy.

## PRESCRIPTIONS FOR THE NHS

THE National Health Service has an annual turnover of £27 billion and employs 820,000 people. Yet, as a business it is in trouble. So *The Times* has asked captains of industry to say how they would deal with its problems. Now can the NHS reconcile ever-increasing customer demands with a limited budget? Can it pay for wonder drugs such as Viagra? This week in *Business News* respected executives from the private sector give their prescriptions for the NHS. Today, on page 42, Sir David Williams of AstraZeneca, makes a plea for a radical new way to fund the health service, while tomorrow Greg Dyke outlines his vision of how the NHS must shape up for the millennium.

## Consumers urged to demand refunds

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER  
IN NEW YORK

WHILE the US Justice Department duels with Bill Gates in the courts, a band of angry computer users will today start an Internet war on Microsoft. Organisers of the first ever Windows Refund Day have taken to the Internet to urge computer buyers worldwide to demand a refund for unwanted software built in to most new computers.

The organisers represent a coalition of consumer groups who favour software other than Microsoft's Windows and resent paying for the pro-

gram that is present on about 95 per cent of PCs.

The refund day was inspired by the success of Geoffrey Bennett, an Australian computer systems manager, who last year got money back from Toshiba for the unwanted Windows that came with his new PC. Mr Bennett said: "I didn't want to pay for a copy of Microsoft Windows if I wasn't going to use it. It adds to the price of a new computer and is useless to me."

After four months of arguing, Toshiba finally gave Mr Bennett a cheque for \$5110 (£4350) as a refund for the unwanted Windows. Mr Bennett

said his success had attracted thousands of people to his Internet website, which explains the problems he faced in getting a refund.

The refund day underscores the public relations problems Microsoft faces with consumers, as well as regulators. Mr Gates and his wife, Melinda, recently donated \$3.3 billion to health and education programmes for the world's poor, but the extraordinary philanthropy has been largely overshadowed by scattered outbreaks of consumer revolt and Microsoft's trial on charges of illegally crushing competition on the Internet.

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